NIAGARA NEWS

NIAGARA COLLEGE of Applied Arts and Technology WELLAND CAMPUS LEARNING RESOURCE CENTRE

21 Pizza
No Taxes with college I.D.
572 Niagara St.
Welland
734-6-241

April 7, 2000 FREE VOLUME 30 ISSUE 15

Niagara News is produced by the Journalism - Print students at Niagara College, Welland Campus

Awards banquet salutes 'amazing' year

Diane VandenHoven, Female Athlete of the Year, and Graeme Gaunt, Male Athlete of the Year, at the banquet held on March 28.

Photo by Jennifer Chornley

By JOEL D. HERRINGTON
Staff Writer

During the 31st annual Awards Banquet at After Hours Pub, Niagara College President Dan Patterson summarized this year's varsity sports season: "It's just been an amazing year."

Ray Sarkis, athletic director, and his athletic department created a night to remember for the college's coaches and players on March 28. All 10 varsity teams were commemorated, and their outstanding athletes were rewarded.

Sarkis and Patterson, who were sitting at the head table on stage, began the night with speeches in honour of their associates, sponsors and athletes.

Players like Graeme Gaunt, Male Athlete of the Year, and coworkers like Laura Chatterton, female volleyball assistant coach and intramural sports co-ordinator, were recognized for their hard work for and dedication to college sports.

Chatterton, 25, said the recognition was "nice," yet the athletes were the focus of her attention. "It's all about the athletes. Everybody (who won an award) deserves it."

Nine of 10 teams selected one most valuable player (MVP).

Matthew Piccolo, 20, is a Art and Design Fundamentals — Graphic Design Production program student who received the MVP award for the men's volleyball team. Piccolo said he was surprised with the decision. "I wasn't expecting it."

Piccolo and Gaunt led the volleyball team to its first Ontario College Athletic Association (OCAA) Championship in the history of the college's 33 years in varsity sports.

Gaunt, a first-year Law and Security Administration program student, said winning the OCAA and finishing "No. 4 in the nation is unbelievable." Upon receiving the award, Gaunt said he was "overwhelmed."

With help from his six-foot

Continued on Page 22

First-year Journalism-Print student elected SAC president

By HEIDI MORRISON
Staff Writer

And the winner is . . .

The votes are in and the Welland campus has a new Student Administrative Council (SAC) president.

Ryan McLaughlin, 22, of Welland, won the election that took place on March 28.

"I'm ecstatic. I've been holding my breath all day and now it just feels like a great release," said McLaughlin, immediately after learning the results.

Lou DiMattio, assistant to the director of student services, was responsible for running most of the election. She was needed to handle the polling stations and ballots, and to make sure the candidates qualified in the first place.

There are "close to 3,000 students that were eligible to vote," she said. Out of that number, 167 students voted. "That was more than we've had in the past."

DiMattio said she feels the competition for president between the two candidates "always remained friendly and all candidates had the same commitment."

Although she was "very busy," she said the election was a "smooth process," and she looks forward to the upcoming year.

DiMattio added now that the students have been elected, "it's not all fun and games." An upcoming event called student leadership day will be held on Saturday, April 15, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. This is for the new members to find the "ins and outs of their positions," she said.

As president, McLaughlin, a first-year Journalism-Print student, said he plans to increase communication with students, adding that students are his "number one priority."

"What I want to do next year, with the help of the other executive members on SAC, is to get students to participate more."

McLaughlin said he knows students are busy and it is hard for them to take the time to read the SAC posters of upcoming events, so he hopes to utilize the class representatives as much as possible.

"I want to stick by what I was saying in my campaign, and that is to increase communication with students."

McLaughlin said he feels his campaign had much to do with his

Continued on Page 9

RYAN McLAUGHLIN

25 SEAWAY MALL
25th ANNIVERSARY
NIAGARA STREET, WELLAND 735-0694
MON FRI 10:00 A.M. TO 9:00 P.M
SATURDAY 9:30 A.M. TO 5:30 P.M
SUNDAY 11:00 A.M. TO 5:00 P.M
INTERNET ADDRESS: http://www.seawaymall.com

SELF SURF
http://www.seawaymall.com

CAMPUS COVERAGE

Upper elected to Board of Governors

Less than four per cent of Niagara College's student body went out to the polls to vote for their student representative

By LAURA T. RICCIUTO
Staff Writer

Students of Niagara College will soon have a new face representing them on the college's Board of Governors.

James Upper, 22, of Thorold, Ont., won the student representative election with 55 per cent of the votes.

The soon-to-be student representative says he is "ecstatic" about winning the election and "can't wait" to start his position.

There were 343 combined ballots from the three college campuses, including nine spoiled votes.

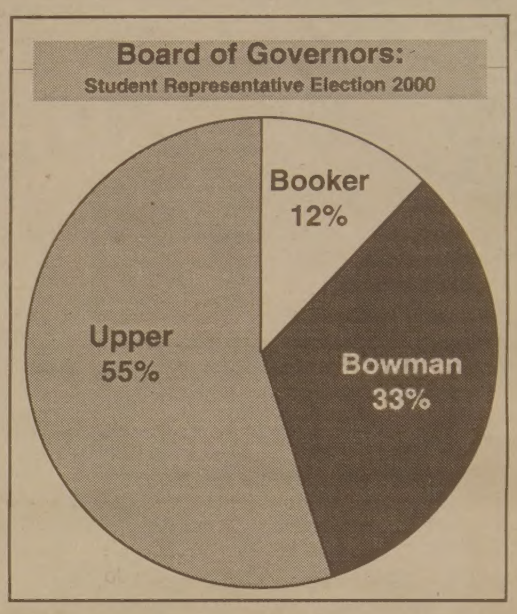
Less than four per cent of Niagara College's student body went to the polls to vote for their Board of Governors student representative.

Students enrolled in full or part-time courses as well as Continuing Education at Niagara College are allowed to vote. There were 9,522 registered students that were eligible.

Upper got 184 of the 334 remaining ballots cast from the 2000 election.

The defeated candidates were Andrea Bowman, from Maid of the Mist Centre, in Niagara Falls, with 110 votes and Edward Booker from Welland campus, with 40 votes.

Upper, along with five other witnesses, including Lou DiMattio, chief returning officer, was in attendance when the ballots were being counted.



"It was very nerve-wracking," says Upper, adding at times it was a "close" run.

The second-year Business-Accounting program student at the Glendale campus in Niagara-on-the Lake will serve a one-year term beginning Sept. 1, and concluding Aug. 31, 2001.

In this time, Upper says he hopes to learn more business skills and to help the college community with any issues they are concerned about.

Upper will be replacing this year's student representative Kevin Reles.

"It's a lot of work but it's a great experience," says Upper, of the advice he received from Reles.

This year's Board of Governors election was held March 28, the same day as the Student Administrative Council (SAC) election.

The decision to hold these elections on the same day resulted in an "incredible" turnout, says Helene Moscato, executive secretary to the Board of Governors.

Only 42 students voted at last year's Board of Governors election for student representative.

"Students who came to vote for their SAC representatives just had to go over to the other side of the table to vote for the Board of Governors election," says Moscato.

It is "important" for students to vote, says Moscato, adding, "Sometimes there are issues on the table that from a student perspective appear to be very different than from a business perspective."

Kevin Reles (left), Niagara College's Board of Governors student representative, congratulates James Upper, the newly elected student representative. Upper will begin his one-year term on Sept. 1.

Photo by John Robbins

Learning Resource Centre offers free Internet Passport

By BROOKE DREDGE
Staff Writer

For those unaware of the purpose these guides serve, the Learning Resource Centre (LRC) wants students to know about the "Internet Passports" offered for free since last fall.

"Basically, it's a reference guide on Windows '95 and '98, Word '97, Excel '97, PowerPoint '97, Access '97 and Netscape," said Jennifer Marcoux, 29, of Thorold, a part-time library technician.

"A range of students are interested in them because the guide is basically a how-to reference and is mostly related to the applications of these programs," said Marcoux.

"The passport itself was developed by Confederation College in Thunder Bay, who then offered them to other colleges in the province. The college's Information Systems Department decided to buy into the project and promote it in the college community.

A guide to Windows, Excel, PowerPoint and Netscape

"Once the college had a chance to think about the idea, they negotiated into them," said Marcoux.

"About 275 students at this campus so far have come and signed up for one. Not only are they going out from the library, but also the personal computer instructors are handing them out in class and encouraging students to use them as a textbook rather than just a guide," said Marcoux.

Estimates of student users for the other two campuses — the Glendale campus in Niagara-on-the Lake and the Maid-of-the-Mist Centre in Niagara Falls — were unavailable, but Marcoux said the interest students have shown isn't going unnoticed.

The LRC staff advise students to simply ask for the Internet Passports. Each student is allowed one passport. All you need is to sign your name and give your student number.

Scholarships, bursaries help students fight increasing tuition

By PATRICIA HUGHES
Staff Writer

Extra cash is available for qualified students.

A number of scholarships and bursaries are awarded each year at Niagara College.

Isabell McGarry, 58, of St. Catharines, is the administrative assistant and office manager of the Niagara College Foundation Office.

She says that scholarship eligibility "depends on the criteria."

Niagara College offers a booklet outlining awards, scholarships and bursaries. The booklet has a brief description of the financial value, eligibility and criteria for each form of assistance.

There are scholarships available for each program.

McGarry says she sends a list to the co-ordinators who then decide who is eligible for the scholarship and sends the form back to McGarry.

"If there is more than one student eligible then it goes to the committee," she says. It is then up to the committee to decide who wins.

Students who apply to the college receive an entrance scholarship application in the mail. McGarry says three are chosen in September and three in January. Each is worth $500.

The first one goes to a high school graduate, the second to a high school graduate who completed six Ontario Academic Credits or more credits and the third to a mature student.

The scholarship deadline is in April, says McGarry. Returning students are notified by the co-ordinator in their program. The dollar amount of the scholarship is credited to fees, which means it is subtracted from the recipient's tuition. If the tuition has already been paid the students will receive a cheque for the amount awarded.

Funding is available for eligible students in every program.

The co-ordinator decides where to have the award presented, says McGarry. The *Niagara News* is called for a photo session and Niagara College President Dan Patterson or the director of the program presents the award.

McGarry says the money for the scholarships comes from companies or independent donors. If it is a trust fund, the amount of the scholarship is determined by the interest accrued.

Each scholarship recipient receives a congratulatory letter. Along with the amount won, each receives a certificate, which is framed by the department. "It is framed beautifully," says McGarry.

The information booklet about the scholarships is available to students at the Financial Aid office at all campuses.

McGarry says not all students receive a copy because it's expensive to produce the book and not many are made. Students are asked to return them. Students can also look on the Niagara College Web page. "Whatever is in the book is on the Web," says McGarry.

Bursaries, too, are available to students. A bursary is a non-repayable grant for those who are having financial difficulty, but are in good academic standing.

If students want to apply for one, they are asked to go to the Financial Aid office. "Most bursaries are depleted fast," says McGarry. They're usually on a "first come, first served" basis.

The Niagara College Web page asks students to direct any questions they might have to their program co-ordinators.

SCREENING ROOM

Broadcasting student says family 'No. 1'

Small-town girl pushes her limits to have career in broadcasting

By KEVIN HARTFORD
Staff Writer

Niagara College student Ginette Poulin says the things that matter most to her are friends, family and a future career in broadcasting.

Poulin, of Chelmsford, Ont., a town "half an hour up from Sudbury," says she feels comfortable living in Welland.

"It's a small town. I'm a small-town girl. If you go into a coffee shop alone and sit down, in 10, 15 minutes you'll see somebody you know and they'll come and sit down with you."

On the importance of friends, Poulin, 19, says, "I really believe as long as you have a handful of close friends, the quantity doesn't matter. It's quality."

"I really like somebody that's outgoing and can do stupid things, like put on rubber boots and jump out in the puddles with me. I enjoy friends like that."

Poulin, a first-year Broadcasting — Radio, Television and Film (BRTF) program student, says her college schedule doesn't allow her much free time and if she had an extra two hours a day to do anything, she'd "spend time with my friends. I haven't really been able to create a close bond with anybody here because I'm always so busy."

"My friend Heather always complains, 'Oh, Gin, you never come out enough.' I don't have time. It's like, 'Yeah, okay, I'll go out with you tonight,' and then I won't see (her) for half a week or something."

'When all else fails, no matter how much you don't get along with your family, they're still there for you.'

Broadcasting student Ginette Poulin, 19, smiles in her broadcasting environment.
Photo by Kevin Hartford

Poulin says she's "old-fashioned" and would like to get married someday.

"I've been a fiancée before," she says. "An ex-boyfriend proposed to me. I was sort of pressured into saying yes. I was a fiancée for three days, then I kind of went, 'Whoa!' I freaked out. I said, 'I'm 18!' and gave him back the ring."

Poulin says although that relationship didn't work out, she would like the man she marries to be her best friend first. "I just want to find another best friend, a best guy friend." She says if you can live the rest of your life with a best friend of the opposite sex, you'll never get tired of that person.

Poulin says she'd like to be married and have children by the age of 25. "(My mom) had my baby sister when she was 39, and she has no energy to raise her anymore. My mom doesn't bring my sister to the park. She doesn't bring her on trips. She doesn't bring her swimming. She could do that with (me) because she had more energy."

'I really believe as long as you have a handful of friends, the quantity doesn't matter. It's quality.'

Poulin says she's not sure what will be more important in her future: her family or her career. "In my field, it's kind of like, 'You're going to be pregnant? No! We need you on this shoot! We need you here! You can't take nine months off!' I really don't know what I'm going to do because family is always No. 1, right?"

Poulin says family is "No. 1" because "they're your blood. They're familiar to you. When all else fails, no matter how much you don't get along with your family, they're still there for you."

Poulin's family includes an older sister, a younger brother and a younger sister. "I've had my moments with all of them."

Poulin says her dream job would be to work in a television studio, but she would prefer to stay behind the scenes. "I don't really enjoy interviewing people that much. A lot of it is getting into people's faces and (saying), 'Your mom just died. How do you feel?' I don't really like that aspect of the business."

Continued on Page 7

Student film examines horrors of war

By KRISTIN COLLVER
Staff Writer

The Laws of War is just one of four films being made by the first-year Broadcasting — Radio, Television and Film (BRTF) program students.

The film, which accounts for 40 per cent of their final mark, is to be completed by the end of the year.

Each student in the class was to write a treatment (movie idea) and then the entire class chose the four best ideas.

Damon Cox, 20, of Tillsonburg, is the director of The Laws of War. His film is about the personal conflicts faced in war and how people who enter into it often do not want to be there. He said he wanted to give his film a generic feeling, with the real enemy being the protagonist, who has personal conflicts. He breaks down the barriers between himself and his enemy. He said he wanted the film to represent a broad range of issues, not specifically war.

Fellow BRTF student Adam Campbell, 20, of Niagara Falls, played the lead character. He was chosen because he had the right look, said Cox. "Boyish good looks, but with a hardened face."

Interactive Multi-media (Post-graduate) program student Devon Grey, 22, of Welland, was chosen to play Campbell's enemy because of his look.

"Devon also had the right look — tough, weathered and drawn out," said Cox.

Each group picked whom they wanted to work with. Working with Cox was Denise Couture, 19, of Tillsonburg, as production manager.

"We work well together," said Cox. She was in charge of scouting for locations, paperwork and pre-booking of equipment. "I can count on her," said Cox.

Colin Byrne, 20, of Mississauga, was director of photography. He was in charge of the lighting and lent a hand with certain shots, helping to make sure the camera was properly positioned to create the right mood. "He wasn't afraid to tell me if the shot looked like crap," said Cox.

Sarah Bound, 19, of Niagara Falls, was the production assistant. She was the "coffee girl" and helped with costumes. "When we were out in minus five degree weather, standing in four feet of snow, she would go on coffee runs into the city," said Cox.

On camera was Rob Carter, 19, of Ajax, Ont. "Rob asked me if he could be the cameraman," Cox said. "He is generally good."

When it came to taking suggestion from his crew, Cox said he was "kind of anal retentive" about it, meaning the crew could give him a suggestion and he would take it into consideration. If he could see it, it might be used.

"He knew what he wanted, but at times he wasn't sure. He would figure it out and it turned out good," Carter said of Cox.

As far as the crew working well together, Carter said there were a lot of personal conflicts that were transferred over to the professional side.

Carter and Cox said they could see themselves going on to be a director and a cameraman. "I could see myself doing it. I feel I have a good eye for getting different shots and making them work," Carter said. He said he would like to do editing. "I really like putting a film together after I shoot it."

"I love directing," said Cox. "It's what I want to do."

First-year students at helm of Niagara News

After seven months and 14 newspapers, the *Niagara News* is undergoing personnel changes.

The Journalism-Print program's second-year students are gone but certainly not forgotten.

Their tenure at the college is ending with a one-month field placement at various publications, including community and daily newspapers, public relations firms and photography studios.

Students will be showing their skills in the newsrooms of *The Welland Tribune, The Niagara Falls Review, The Standard, The Hamilton Spectator, Hamilton Mountain News, The Simcoe Reformer, Voice of Pelham, Stoney Creek News, The New Canadian* and *Tillsonburg News*. One student is heading overseas to *The Herald* in Scotland.

Some will be taking on duties in the magazine offices of *Canadian Musician* and *Pulse Niagara*.

Students who opted for a public relations specialty will be working on campaigns for Niagara College Marketing and Communications, Ontario March of Dimes, St. Catharines General Hospital, Niagara Parks Commission, The Canadian Cancer Society, United Way of South Niagara and the Red Cross.

One student has been hired as a full-time reporter/photographer with the *Hanover Post*.

Advertising sales for broadcast will be the job for one student at HTZ FM 97.7 Radio while another will be involved with sales layout at *The Muskoka Sun*.

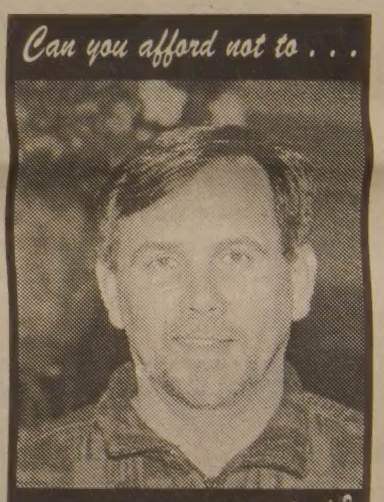
A new placement this year is within the Journalism-Print program putting *Niagara News* online for a September launch.

Photographers will be working at Niagara College and with the Kidney Foundation.

The program's first-year students are at the helm with three news editors: Kevin Hartford, 19, of Leamington, Ont., as editor; Jennifer Chornley, 19, of St. Catharines, as associate editor, and Laura Ricciuto, 20, of Niagara Falls, as assistant editor.

The 41-member class did the reporting, writing, editing, photography and layout and design of this edition.

Their second, and final edition, of the *Niagara News*, will be published Thursday, April 20.



. . . put your trust in safe hands?
GIC ALTERNATIVES
(With 100% Guarantees & no probate fees)
MORTGAGES
(We'll shop for your Best Rate)
SEVERANCE PKGS/ PENSION TRANSFERS
(Pay less TAX with professional advice)
INHERITANCES, DIVORCE & INSURANCE SETTLEMENTS
(Putting your interests first)
RRSP/RESP TRANSFERS
(Let us actively manage your investments)
Call Today For Your
FREE GIC ALTERNATIVES REPORT
GREG LIDSTONE
Financial Advisor
905-374-7608
http://www.afpwmi.com
e-mail: lidstone@vaxxine.com
AFP WEALTH MANAGEMENT
Member of ING Group

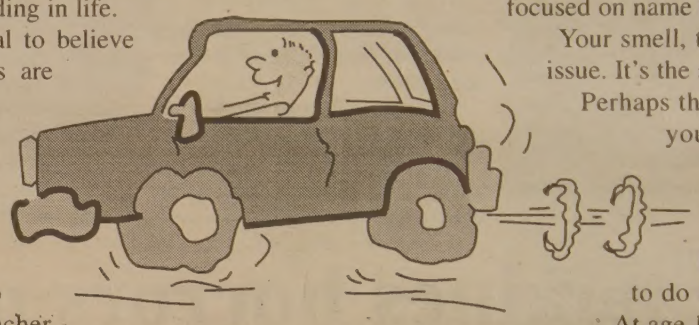
EDITORIAL

The Niagara News is a practical lab for the Journalism-Print program, covering the college community and other areas of interest.
Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the management of the Niagara News or the administration of
Niagara College. P.O. Box 1005, 300 Woodlawn Rd., Welland, Ont. L3B 5S2
Phone (905) 735-2211 / 641-2252 / 374-7454 / FAX (905) 736-6005
Editor: Kevin Hartford; **Associate Editor:** Jennifer Chornley; **Assistant Editor:** Laura T. Ricciuto;
Publisher: Leo Tiberi, director, Communications and Information Technology;
Managing Editor: Phyllis Barnatt, co-ordinator Journalism-Print program;
Associate Managing Editor: Gary Erb, professor Journalism-Print program;
Editorial Consultant: Nancy Geddie, professor Journalism-Print program;
Advertising Manager: Ron Tufts, advertising professor;
Advertising-Account Manager: VBS Advertising, Ron Crowley;
Advertising Design: Ron Crowley;
Photography Consultant: Jhim Burwell, photography instructor; **Photography Crew Editor:** Jhim Burwell;
Film Processing: Laura T. Ricciuto, Wes Bridges, Kandis Thorsby;
Contact Sheets: Julie Scala, Scott Thomson, Bill Stephenson;
Scanning Crew: Paul Finelli, Jason Long, Ryan McLaughlin.

Blaming others fun, thought provoking

The three most magical words in the English language are "not my fault."

Many people will tell you blaming others for your shortcomings is just a petty form of denial, but these people could not be more wrong. Blame is a useful and effective tool for staying sane and succeeding in life.



For instance, let's say you own a car. It's natural to believe you're the best driver on the road and all others are morons. Why else would the phrase "Learn how to drive!" exist? "Forgetting" to use your turn signals and cursing like a sailor when other drivers don't use theirs makes for an enjoyable, guilt-free ride.

If you're a student and you fail a test or exam, it's probably the teacher's fault. The questions were too vague or they focused on material the teacher covered on a day you had better things to do than attend class.

If that doesn't work, blame Molson for brewing beer so tasty you couldn't help but show up on exam day with a hangover.

Your inability to land a date rests squarely on the shoulders of society. The shallowness of that attractive guy or girl who won't acknowledge your existence can't be blamed on the fact that you resemble a pitbull in jeans and a Nike jacket, but rather the fact that society is so obsessed with looks.

The reason that girl or guy refuses to be seen with somebody who drives a Gremlin isn't that your car is embarrassing, but rather that society is so focused on name brands and material value.

Your smell, taste in music and sense of humour are not the issue. It's the state of the world that's the problem.

Perhaps the most important function of blame is to help you get out of trouble. For example, while taking the driving test for my G2 license, I successfully avoided losing marks by convincing the examiner that I moved into the left-hand turn lane too early because she told me to do so.

At age 17, I sneaked into the R-rated film Face/Off and managed to make a theatre usher apologize for having the nerve to ask me if I was 18.

Assigning blame can be fun and thought provoking. More important, the cold, harsh truths of a cruel and inhumane world are easily ignored if you're too busy pointing a finger at somebody else.

Kevin Hartford

Reform Alliance should 'reform' its policies

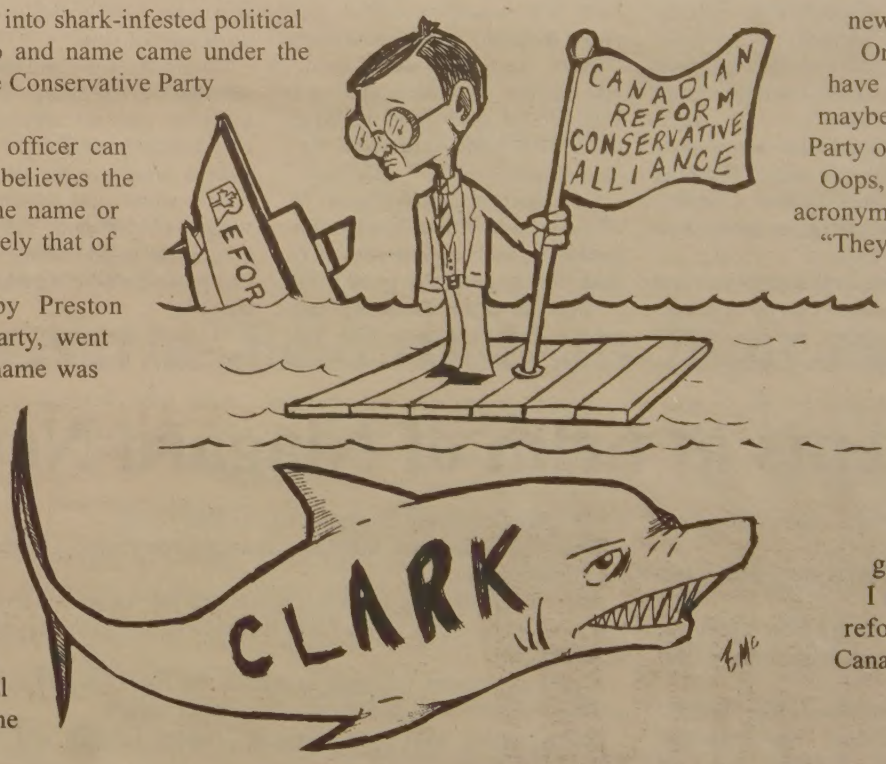
The former federal Reform Party sank into shark-infested political waters last week when the party's logo and name came under the scrutiny of Joe Clark, federal Progressive Conservative Party leader, and the chief electoral officer.

Under federal law the chief electoral officer can refuse to register a party if he or she believes the name, the short form abbreviation of the name or the logo of the party resembles too closely that of another party.

The new political party created by Preston Manning, and replacing the Reform Party, went through an investigation to ensure the name was not considered similar to the Progressive Conservative Party's.

The Reform party's new name is the Canadian Reform Conservative Alliance (CRCA), but an announcement made on Sunday by the chief electoral officer allowed the new party to keep its name.

Clark is the lone shark in the water now; by this, I mean he will be the only individual taking extreme action to deal with a perceived problem, by suing the new party under a copyright law.



On the other hand, the Reform Party should have respected the word "conservative" and maybe used the name Canadian Reform Alliance Party or used the name Canadian Alliance Party.

Oops, I forgot. This spells out a not-so-pleasant acronym.

"They're doing it because they can't get anywhere on their name so they're using the name that has elected us for more than a century," says Clark.

I would have agreed with Clark on how to deal with the problem, but this time I say, as Shakespeare would say, "What's in a name?"

At the same time, I would leave the word "conservative" to the older, more distinguished Progressive Conservative party.

I say keep the name, but the CRCA should reform its policies to an extent that the Canadian people can support.

Jennifer Chornley

ADVERTISING RULES: The advertiser agrees that the publisher shall not be liable for damages arising out of errors in advertisements beyond the amount paid for the space actually occupied by the portion of the advertisement in which the error occurred. This applies whether such error is due to the negligence of its servants or otherwise.
There shall be no liability for non-insertions of any advertisement beyond the amount paid for such advertisement.
All advertisers are asked to check their advertisements after first insertion. We accept responsibility for only one incorrect insertion unless notified immediately after publication. Errors, which do not lessen the value of the advertisement, are not eligible for corrections by a make-good advertisement. There shall be no liability for non-insertion of any advertisement beyond the amount paid for such advertisement. We reserve the right to edit, revise, classify or reject any advertisement.

PERSPECTIVES

Accomplish your dreams at Niagara

By LAURA T. RICCIUTO
Staff Writer

In search of higher learning. In search of a new life. Above all, in search of a dream that may change our lives forever.

These are some of the many reasons we had for entering college. Now that we are here, what does it all mean?

I look at my life and where I stand today. Suddenly, I realize the leap I have made. The past seven months have flown past, in what seems the blink of an eye.

Life at Niagara College seems as though it has just begun, yet it feels as if I have always been here.

Becoming a full-time college student has changed the life I knew not long ago. Everything is different. Everything is new. Work ranks secondary; deadlines and exams are mandatory. Suddenly making money doesn't matter, but making the grade does.

Life at Niagara College seems as though it has just begun, yet it feels as if I have always been here.

This past September symbolized a new beginning, a new page in the book of life and a chance at making my dream come true.

For me, journalism is much more than a random career choice. I have chosen this path for several reasons. As I attempt to follow in my father's footsteps, (Tony Ricciuto staff writer for *The Niagara Falls Review*), I realize my journey has just begun. Before I can contemplate the thought of my career, it all must start right here.

I am slowly, but surely, making my way into a field known as journalism.

The world is a crazy place and soon I will have the responsibility of witnessing this chaos firsthand. I will experience the exciting and the unknown, only to briefly report on what I have seen.

I believe I have found an opportunity many seem to overlook. I am referring to the ability to inform and educate our society. I see this ability as a gift and a wonderful challenge that I welcome wholeheartedly.

This is the choice I have made. I have taken the first steps of my journey. As I look back upon the few fresh footprints I have made, I look ahead to see a steep road that can only be travelled by me. This road is my future; it will lead me to the top.

This past September symbolized a new page in the book of life and a chance at making my dream come true.

College life . . . a world I have yet to completely discover. The doors are open and the possibilities are endless.

Death, one of life's important lessons

By PATRICIA HUGHES
Staff Writer

Don't take for granted the ones you love.

On June 20, 1999, my cousin Shawn was killed as his truck rolled over in a ditch. He was 20 years old. He was one of the people closest to me in my life; we had grown up together.

When it first happened I felt paralysed. I didn't want to believe it. This was something that was supposed to happen to other people, not me. I just kept thinking it was a dream, and I would wake up from the nightmare at any second.

Well, it has been nine months, and I still haven't woken up. I won't lie like those pathetic people who say it gets easier, because it doesn't. In fact, it gets harder.

I think a lot about the past. When we were kids, we used to play silly pranks. I think a lot about the future too. It's harder to think about the future because it's a reminder of how I have to keep on living when he's not. When important things happen in my life, he's not going to be there anymore to share them with me.

This is the worst kind of pain because there's not a doctor in the world who can make it go away. A part of me died when Shawn did, a part that I will never get back.

I don't know what to feel any more. I'm sad, but, most of all, I'm angry. I'm angry at Shawn for not fighting hard enough I'm angry at myself for taking him for granted and I'm angry at God for taking the one person who knew me better than I knew myself.

I realize that nothing could have been done to prevent this tragedy. It happened and I have to accept it.

The one thing that bothers me more than anything is that I don't remember the last thing I said to him. I know it wasn't "I love you" or "thank you for always being there."

I admired Shawn for his courage and for always being himself. I would do anything to be able to tell him that in person. When you take people for granted you tend not to say the things you should. It's hard to *go through life knowing it's too late to* tell someone what he or she means to you.

I won't lie like those pathetic people who say it gets easier, because it doesn't. In fact it gets harder.

Death is one of life's many lessons. It's a difficult one to learn, but important.

Human Sexuality, a course worth taking

By TERRI LYNN LeBLANC
Staff Writer

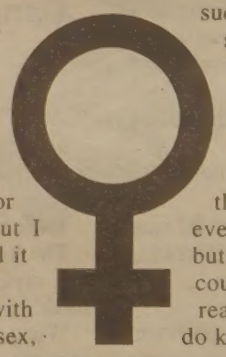
SEX.

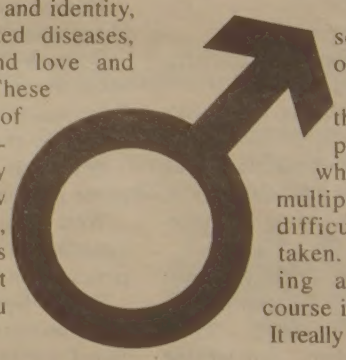
Now that I've got your attention, think about how many times you have heard that word and how many times it has actually caught your eye?

It's funny how the word "sex" can trigger one's curiousity. When choosing my elective for this semester, I picked a course that triggered my curiousity. The course? Human Sexuality.

At first I felt like a pervert for even considering the course, but I read over the course outline and it seemed rather intriguing.

The course not only deals with sex, but also different issues of sex, such as gender roles and identity, sexually transmitted diseases, sexual abuse, and love and relationships. These are just a few of the topics covered. You may think you know everything about sex, but until you take this course you will not realize how little you do know.





Everyday, I learn something new. It's one of my favourite classes.

For those of you who think that the class is probably a breeze, that's where you're wrong. The multiple choice tests are as difficult as any I've ever taken. Next year when choosing an elective, take this course into consideration.

It really is a learning experience.

Keeping friendships strong throughout the years

By TARA FORD
Staff Writer

Out with the old and in with the new.

That saying isn't necessarily true. Taking into consideration the friendships I have made over the years, I've had a completely different experience.

Coming to college has made me realize who my true friends are and who will always be in my life. I've found that trying to keep in touch with old friends is difficult, but possible.

One of my closest friends went to school in Michigan. I wasn't sure we could stay as close as we were, but my fears were quickly proven wrong. We try to talk as often as we can, and we keep in touch even when it seems impossible. She'll always be beside me, and I don't know what I would do if I lost her.

Old friends, near or far, will always be there for me through good times and bad. They would never kick me when I'm down. They know me in a way that no one else ever can.

Bringing new people into my life has been just as good for me as keeping my old friends close.

I have met many people at Niagara College and I've enjoyed every minute of time spent with them. The first couple of friends I made here were a relief because I was afraid I would never be able to find people with interests common to my own. It didn't take long to form close bonds with people I never thought I would meet, let alone care about as much as I do.

This first year has flown by and I owe it all to my new friends for helping me through it. We have had a lot of fun and we've made many memories.

Meeting new friends has made me realize how much more there is to explore in the world. I have experienced the different types of personalities in people and found lasting friendships while doing so.

Coming to college has made me realize who my true friends are and who will always be in my life.

Old friends or new friends, there is a special place in my heart for every one of you.

PERSPECTIVES

Speeding doesn't pay for life lost

By SCOTT ROSTS
Staff Writer

It was just after midnight and I was driving down Niagara Street in Welland. I was heading home to St. Catharines after visiting my girlfriend in Sherkston. I had taken a detour through Welland to visit my friend at work. As I listened to music and ate a doughnut, I sped up since there weren't any cars in sight. Unfortunately I was wrong.

There he was, sitting on the other side of the road hidden in a parking lot. As I saw him out of the corner of my eye, I cursed to myself and tried to casually slow down. I got back down to the speed limit and thought I was safe.

The car pulled out and followed slowly, teasing with my emotions. Then it happened. The red lights went on and my heart almost stopped as I pulled over to the side of the road. I had been pulled over by the police. I rolled down my window and waited with butterflies in my stomach. The officer approached.

"Do you know why I pulled you over?"

"No sir," I said, just thinking of my first offence on my driving record.

"You were going pretty fast back there. Do you know how fast you were going?"

"No, sir."

"Very fast," he replied.

I nodded and thought of the death sentence that I'd be giving myself with a ticket. The executioner would be my own mother. Insurance isn't cheap, and a speeding ticket definitely wouldn't help.

The officer asked to see my licence and I nervously handed him my whole wallet. He handed it back and asked me to just take out my licence. I quickly did what he asked, and offered to give him my ownership to my car. My hands were shaking and I was quite visibly nervous.

The fines and other money you pay are only a simple penalty.

The officer walked back to his car and I sat there waiting for my penalty. I jokingly asked myself whether I should offer him a doughnut, but I figured that wouldn't go over too well.

After a few minutes the officer returned and gave my licence and registration back. He asked if I'd been drinking and I said no. He then warned me to watch my speed and walked away.

Very relieved, I drove off, monitoring my speed regularly. As I drove home, all I could think about was how I'd avoided a ticket and hike in my insurance rate. I wondered whether I should tell my mother about the incident or keep it to myself.

When I got home I turned on the television and watched Sportsdesk on The Sports Network. The thought of escaping a simple fine and high insurance rate moved to the back of my head as I watched the lead story. A star National Football League player Derrick Thomas was speeding and lost control of his car. The immediate result was paralysis, but he eventually died. Here I was thinking about a payment of money, when I ultimately escaped the possibility of injuring myself or maybe somebody else.

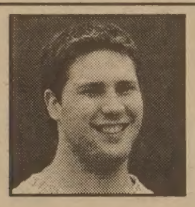
Soon after this incident, National Basketball Association player Bobby Phills crashed his car and died after racing a teammate at high speeds.

Speeding does not pay. The risk of losing your life is not worth it. The fines and other money you pay are only a simple penalty. The sports world has lost two great athletes, and this past summer I lost one of my friends as the result of speeding. Speeding kills.

Next time you've been pulled over for speeding, think how lucky you are to be alive, not how lucky you are that you got off.

More discipline can fix environmental problems

How long is it going to be before we take a hint and start fixing past mistakes?



By JASON BURROUGHS
Staff Writer

Take a deep breath and exhale.

Now think of a room filled with smokers.

Imagine all the dusty, smoky air.

Think about how unpleasant the smoky room would be.

Smoke stinks. It dries your eyes and, worst of all, it burns when you inhale it.

Why would you want to be in a smoke-filled room?

Outside the air is clean — for the most part — but how long will it be until even that air burns on the way down?

I'm not attacking smokers. I'm writing about our environmental problems.

There is a huge problem outside and it has to be solved, fast.

Our ozone is depleting faster than our industrial world is willing to admit, but Mother Nature doesn't slow down because of a lack of motivation on our part.

She's trying to force us to open our eyes but, let's face it, we're all stubborn and we hate to do things we're not already doing.

Well, she's turning on the heat to try to put the sweat on us.

If you haven't noticed, the weather is starting to get warmer and warmer, but to us in Canada, this just means less snow. So, where's the problem?

For most of us, there isn't a large problem, yet.

Most of the problems are occurring south of the equator in places like Australia.

Because of a large hole in the ozone layer, about the size of Antarctica, over the South Pole, Australia is plagued with large numbers of people with skin cancer.

In the last 10 or so years, the hole in the ozone has quadrupled in size.

Who is to say that in the next 20 years Canada won't start to feel this problem as it grows closer to us?

We can help stop this problem.

Let us start by identifying the problem - global warming, better know as the greenhouse effect.

Carbon dioxide is floating up into the earth's atmosphere and is creating its own liner below the lining of the ozone.

Then there are chlorofluorocarbons (CFC), used in fridges and air conditioners. These CFCs are also floating up along with the carbon dioxide.

The CFCs are getting into the ozone and when the two mix, the CFCs split the ozone apart, creating small holes.

The weather is starting to get warmer and warmer, but to us in Canada, this just means less snow.

The ozone tries to replenish itself, but we are releasing CFCs faster than Mother Nature can fix the ozone.

What is the result?

The less ozone there is, the more ultraviolet rays from the sun can penetrate to the earth's surface.

When the sun's heat reaches the Earth it then tries to escape, but the layer of carbon dioxide holds it inside the earth's atmosphere, causing extra heat.

The greenhouse effect may cause more trouble than just heat waves and higher levels of cancer.

The heat could also cause the world's water levels to rise about 2.2 meters because of melting glaciers.

This large rise in water levels would flood some of the world's most highly populated areas, since a large portion of the world's population lives along continental shores.

What can we do to help ourselves?

It is quite simple.

Recycle. It's a simple task. All you have to do is throw your paper and cans into a pick-up box instead of a bag.

Open the windows in your house and car more often. Try not to use the air conditioner unless the heat is unbearable.

Try not to use so much hair spray. Be creative. Find new and more environmentally friendly ways to do your hair.

Finally, try not to rely so much on your car. You'll be helping stop pollution, exercising and saving money, especially now with the high gasoline prices.

I'm sure everybody would rather lose a little weight than lose a lot of cash.

If we all try working to keep our environment healthy, good old Mother Nature will help out with some of our other problems.

History may be repeating in accessibility of education

By BROOKE DREDGE
Staff Writer

With the increase in tuition, how is a student expected to get a decent education?

People are always telling children to stay in school, get an education and make this world a better place. How are we supposed to do that when we can't afford to pay for it?

Ontario Premier Mike Harris keeps saying he's going to stop taking from the education system and give students a chance to get good jobs, but not only has he taken money away from education, he also has made it impossible for anyone to afford to go to school.

Hundreds of years ago, the only people allowed to attend school were those whose families were rich, so I guess that's what's going to happen now because only the rich will be able to afford it.

The problem with our government is the fact people affected never seem to get a say in how their money is spent. If the decisions were left to struggling students, the money would be put where it would have the most use: education and health care.

The problem with government is the fact people affected never seem to get a say in how their money is spent.

Harris doesn't seem to realize the damage he does when he makes a decision.

This one may just cause education access to plummet and the dropout rate to skyrocket. Students won't finish school because they know they'd never be able to afford to go to college and become better people. This, in turn, brings college and university enrolment down because very few people would be able to afford to go.

Considering all this, don't you think that would be enough for Harris to leave college and university tuition alone or work some sort of alternative so that high school graduates are given a fair opportunity to use and apply their diplomas?

Adding to the argument, there are people misusing the Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP) who have made it hard for anyone to get funding.

The OSAP system needs to be stricter on those being given the money and more checking needs to be done to ensure this money isn't being misused.

Who can be blamed? The cheaters or the government enforcing the tuition increase? Both should be held accountable, because either way, I believe it is hurting the rest of us.

STUDENT PROFILES

Student 'made it' despite setbacks

Medwin, who struggled through childhood, working towards Armed Forces career

By CRYSTAL LANGILLE
Staff Writer

Mike Medwin made it after all.

Medwin, 19, of Welland, was born blind in one eye. "I was made fun of from kindergarten right through to Grade 12."

He says no matter where he lived, he "couldn't get away from it." Medwin has lived in Brampton, Ont., for "a couple of months" and Toronto from ages 10 to 12. He says the majority of his life was spent in Hamilton.

Medwin says he grew up "like most kids" except that he "got into drugs." At 16, he was living with his mother when "there was a bang on my bedroom door. It was the police." He says his mother had found "two joints" in his coat pocket. "I was sleeping, but they woke me up and told me they were there to escort me out of my mother's house."

'I was sleeping but they woke me up and told me they were to escort me out of my mother's house.'

Medwin says he was "kicked out" at midnight.

Medwin was left with nowhere to live. After living with his friend, he says he had to "resort to welfare." He lived with his friend's grandfather for a while, but had to find a place of his own. He says his father "offered" to let him live at his house after he saw how he was living.

"It wasn't too long before the fighting began." Medwin says some "misplaced" items "caused the arguing."

Medwin then began working as a line installer for Bell Canada, but he was soon laid off from that position. "It was an apprenticeship job." He says that began "a whole new string of fights," adding, "My dad thought I got fired." Medwin says, "After a few choice words were exchanged with my dad, he kicked me out."

Again, Medwin moved to a friend's house. "Both of my parents abandoned me." He moved into his own place shortly after and continued to go to high school. "At that age, if someone has a place of their own, they don't normally finish high school; they party instead."

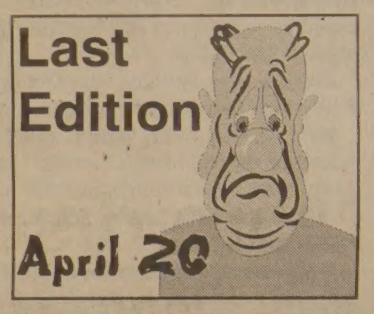
Medwin graduated from high school in 1999 and applied for college. "My brother told me I could move in with him and his girlfriend in Niagara Falls if I got accepted." Medwin was accepted into the General Arts and Sciences program and moved to Niagara Falls in the summer. He says there was "a lot of pressure on me to get a job" because the landlord was going to raise his brother's rent. "I had to be out by January because I didn't want my brother to have to pay more than he already was."

'I had to be out by January because I didn't want my brother to have to pay more than he already was.'

Medwin found a place to live in Welland. He rooms with someone in his class, for this semester. "I'm not doing too well this semester though," Medwin says. "I want to take environmental studies next year." He says he would like to become an environmental technician for the Canadian Armed Forces.

"I don't talk to my [parents] that much. Sometimes my dad. I go see my mom on her birthday and stuff."

Medwin says he "made it after all. Don't let the past determine what you can become in the future. I didn't."

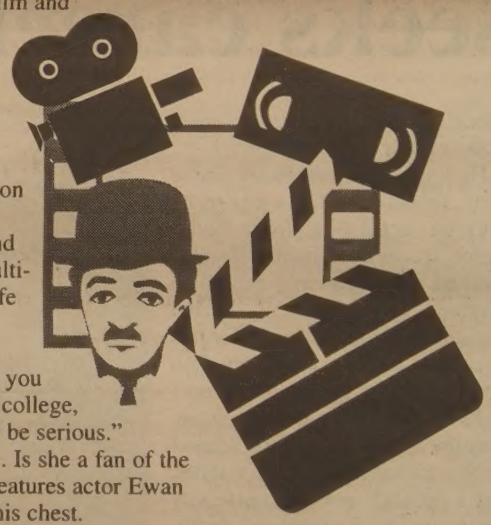


College provides base for rest of life

Continued from page 3

She says she would rather "stay in the production side" and let other people do the interviews.

Poulin says she enjoys the film and television aspects of her program more than the radio aspect because radio "is a slow-paced medium." She says in film and television she gets to be "really, really extremely creative" and that she likes working with visuals and photography.



Poulin says her least favourite aspect of the BRTF program is taking Current Events. "I have a very hard time in Current Events. Current Events is just over my head and under my feet. It's not something I can catch on easily to."

Poulin says college is about "pushing your limits" and "seeing how far you can go." She says college is the "ultimate thing" and is the base of the rest of the way her life is going to go.

"I think that college is the beginning of the end. You have to be serious in college. If you do well in college, you get good jobs. You get good money. If you do badly in college, you get bad jobs. You get bad money. There's a time to be serious."

A poster of the film Trainspotting is on Poulin's wall. Is she a fan of the film? She turns around and looks at the poster, which features actor Ewan McGregor, covered in water, holding his arms against his chest.

Poulin laughs and says, "No, I just have a thing for wet, vulnerable men."

Carpet Blow-out
Clearing out all inventory at Great Savings!
❖ Wool Axminsters
❖ Area Rugs
❖ Hard Surface
❖ & TONS of remnants
MITCHELL RUG CO. LTD.
22-34 Secord Drive
Units 1 & 2
St. Catharines, Ontario
(905) 938-8333
FAMILY OPERATED SINCE 1953

Hard Rock CAFE
NIAGARA FALLS
Join the Industry Leaders
Niagara's hottest spot is now hiring people with personality and attitude.
Supervisors, Servers, Cooks, Bartenders, Hosts, Retail sales associates, Bus persons.
Please send or fax your resume to:
Canadian Niagara Hotels Inc.
5685 Falls Avenue
Niagara Falls, Ontario
L2E 5W7
Fax: (905) 371-8346

ROSS UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
◆ Over 2,000 Ross Grads practice in the US.
◆ Ross students' pass rate on first attempt at USMLE approx 90%
◆ Clinical Clerkship Affiliations with over 40 US Teaching Hospitals
◆ Approved by N.Y., N.J., and California.
Email: admissions@rossmed.edu
WEBSITE: WWW.ROSSMED.EDU
SCHOOL OF VETERINARY MEDICINE
◆ Traditional US Vet School Curriculum ◆ Faculty primarily DVM/Ph.D.
◆ Clinical Affiliations with 12 U.S. Veterinary Universities
Email: admissions@rossvet.edu
WEBSITE: WWW.ROSSVET.EDU
Visit our Websites for Video, Catalogs and Enrollment Applications
460 W 34th St., NY, NY 10001 Ph:212 279-5500

GRAD JOBS !!!
ARE YOU REGISTERED YET?
HAVE YOU CHECKED OUT THE NEW GRAD JOBS ONLINE?
- EACH YEAR EMPLOYERS CONTACT NIAGARA COLLEGE SEEKING GRADUATES.
- NIAGARA COLLEGE EMPLOYMENT SERVICES IS NOW REGISTERING THIS YEAR'S GRADUATING STUDENTS FOR JOB OPPORTUNITIES.
- YOU CAN NOW ALSO ACCESS THESE JOB POSTINGS ONLINE!!!
DON'T MISS OUT - FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT YOUR EMPLOYMENT SERVICES:
Welland Campus – SE 101
Glendale Campus – W 107
Maid of Mist Centre – Student Services

STUDENT PROFILES

Schram has 'high expectations' for future

By TARA FORD
Staff Writer

Brandon Schram says he has "high expectations" for his future.

Schram, 21, of Chatham, Ont., is in his first year of the Recreation and Leisure Services program at the Niagara College Welland campus. He graduated from the two-year Sports Administration program at Durham College, in Oshawa, before continuing his education here.

Schram says with his program there is a placement every semester. This semester he is working at the Fort Erie Parks and Recreation Leisureplex.

"I am responsible for producing the spring/summer edition of the *Leisure Guide* for this year."

The *Leisure Guide* is a magazine published for the Town of Fort Erie that explains what types of programs are available for the public.

Schram says he likes "the fact that it will look good on my résumé and in my portfolio."

He says only doing one thing all the time "can get repetitive and boring," and he is "only there for half-days most of the time."

Asked about his family, Schram says he is closest to his mother.

"We can talk about a lot of stuff and she calls me more than my dad does, but it's not like I love him any less."

Schram says he spends more time with his father than anyone else in the family because "I work with him every day during (school) breaks and over the summer." His father installs flooring and does renovations.

"I have been working for and with him since I was 12. I also worked at an aluminum factory this summer where I made the bulk of my money."

BRANDON SCHRAM

Schram says he has a "slim number of close friends. I don't believe in that best friend crap. I think that friends are all different as people and they are all close to me in a certain way. That's why they're my friends."

Asked what his friends would say about his character, "they would say I am a big goof," Schram says jokingly. "No, seriously, I hope that they would say I am a fun, easy-going person. They would say I am easy to talk to and that I would do anything to help someone at the drop of a hat, even if it means I would have to sacrifice something for myself."

Schram says he likes to play sports. He says he likes hockey. "I am on the recreation intramural team." He says he also likes to play pool and basketball and to "roam around" on the computer.

"I have a burner (CD) and I spend a lot of time looking for new music and just learning new things. The Internet is seen as a nerdy thing to do but I have learned a lot of new things from it."

Schram says he would like to travel someday to Scotland and British Columbia, but for now he has to stay around here until he has the money to do so. "Since I went to college already, I know a lot of people around Ontario. I always have some place to go." He says he has never been "anywhere fancy, like Cuba."

Schram says if he could have one wish in this lifetime it would be for "security and happiness for my parents." He says that they are most deserving.

Asked if he had a dream job, Schram says it is "something I can't wait to get out of bed for in the morning, but I have no idea what that will be," until he gets the job. "I would like to work in Toronto or a big city to start out, and then go to a smaller town to settle down and start a family, if I have a wife!"

Schram says in the future he will probably be working in Toronto with the National Hockey League (NHL) or the National Hockey League Players' Association. "I have worked for them (NHL) a few times and I have some contacts in the organization, but I would still like to go to school to study computer science."

'I would like to work in Toronto or a big city to start out, and then go to a smaller town to settle down and start a family, if I have a wife!'

Schram says when he was 18 he set a goal for himself.

"I wrote a cheque for myself for $100,000 and made the date for the year 2020. This money I plan to have as extra. However, I don't base my success on money. I feel that as long as I am doing something I love, and being able to support a lifestyle that I love, is successful in itself."

College student seeks career in teaching

Campbell says he 'likes the school' and makes use of the extras on campus

By TERRI LYNN LE BLANC
Staff Writer

Some people say one of the most important things in life is succeeding, but getting there is half the battle.

Matthew Campbell, 20, of Ingersoll, Ont., is a second-year Recreation and Leisure Services program student at Niagara College in Welland.

Campbell says he enjoys his program, but wants to get into teaching so he plans to continue his education after this year. "I'm planning on attending Brock University next year. I'm going to get into the Physical Education program."

After he finishes the four-year program at Brock, he will receive a bachelor of arts degree and a bachelor of education degree. "I hope to finish with a degree in phys ed and also have completed teachers college." But for now, he says, "I'm going to finish this program (Recreation and Leisure Services) and graduate in the spring of 2000."

He says the program is not "overly challenging," but adds, "If I put my full potential into the course I would probably get better grades."

Asked if it was because of lack of motivation, he says, "This semester there is, because it is my last few months of school."

Campbell says he likes his teachers. "They are very helpful and sensitive to our needs as students," although they do "give us a fair amount of homework."

' I play basketball after class, and I participated on the school football team.'

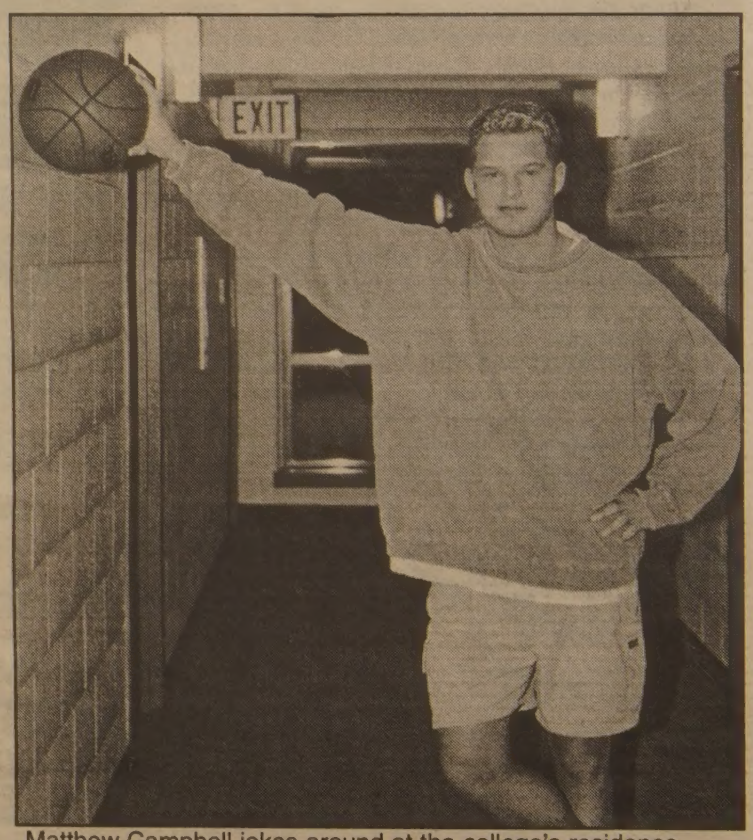
Campbell's schedule consists of 17 hours of classes a week, and he attends "all of the time."

He says "every semester we have a practicum. It's almost like co-op." There is a certain number of hours required, about 70 hours every semester. "We get a lot of experience, which is very helpful and productive to our careers."

Campbell says he has done about 160 hours and is looking for a one-month placement.

He has worked at Notre Dame High School in Welland, where, he says, he "acted as a physical education teacher assistant." He also worked at St. Kevin's School in Welland as a Grade 7 teacher assistant. "I don't get paid for this because it is only a practicum. You only get paid if you do co-op." Asked why he choose his program, Campbell says "because I wanted to be a physical education teacher, but I couldn't get into university right out of high school so I decided to go to college," adding "Niagara was the furthest away." Campbell says Niagara "is and is not" preparing him for what he wants to do with his life. "If I were getting into the recreation field, they (Niagara) are helping me. But since I've changed my interest and want to get into teaching, they are not helping me to the extent if I would have stuck with my first decision."

Campbell says he "likes the school." He makes use of the extras on campus. "I play basketball after class, and I participated on the school football team. I also work out at the weight room when I can and sometimes attend the pub on Thursdays."



Matthew Campbell jokes around at the college's residence.
Photo by Terri Lynn Le Blanc

Campbell lives in Welland in the basement of a house. He lives with one roommate, who is also in the Recreation and Leisure program. "Living there has its ups and downs. The landlord is not the nicest, but it is only $300 a month to live there, so I put up with it." Campbell says he plans on getting a teaching position when he is finished school. "I'm not too sure where I want to work, but as of right now, it doesn't matter. Between now and four years (from now) I do not know what will happen."

FACULTY FILES

Electronics just part of life for instructor

By JOEL D. HERRINGTON
Staff Writer

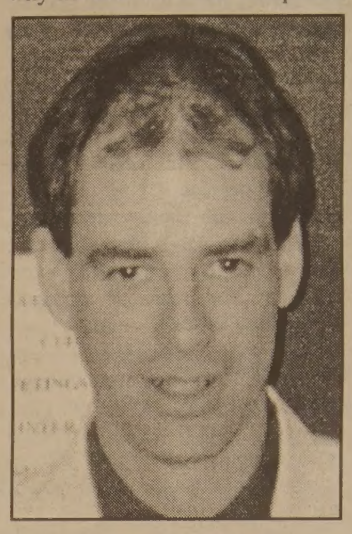
Electronics has been a part of Leslie Novak's entire life. From childhood to the present day, Novak says he has always wanted to work in the field of electronics. "I started taking things apart when I was five," says Novak.

Novak, 33, was born and raised in Welland. After graduating from Welland High School, Novak attended Niagara College and graduated from the Electronic Engineering Technology program in 1990. Novak is a teacher at Niagara's Welland campus in that same program.

As a child, Novak says he would take things apart and try to put them back together. "I used to take apart typewriters. I could never put them back together."

Before he started working at the college, Novak worked in Stoney Creek, Ont., with a company called Simplex Time, an electronic installation and computer programming business.

Since 1995, Novak has been teaching first- and second-year courses in the electronic department. He says there are reasons why he does not teach computers.



LESLIE NOVAK

"I stay away from the computer geek department. Programming is not my forté."

Novak says only one person had a positive influence in his decision to pursue a career in electronics and technology. "My high school technology teacher Ben Ventresca."

The college's technology department has up-to-date computers and lab equipment. There is rarely a shortage in equipment, and the students have everything they need to succeed, says Novak. "We always get what we want. We've got everything we need."

The Gennum Corporation, in Burlington, is a manufacturer of electronic parts.

Novak says he would like to see a schedule created between the college and Gennum that would give the college's technology teachers and the employees at Gennum the option of working together during their spare time, says Novak. "I want to improve my knowledge," he says, adding, the schedule would give the students and the teachers a chance to learn more.

He says his favourite pastime is fishing. "I'm hooked. My father took me out when I was young." Since then, Novak says he has liked fishing. "I fish, therefore I am."

Sports, he says, are another one of his favourite pastimes. Concerning the attack of Boston Bruins defencemen Marty McSorley on Vancouver Canucks forward Donald Brashear, Novak says the penalty should have remained within the league. "That's how they've always done it. After he (Brashear) hit the ice, he (McSorley) was probably thinking, 'What the hell did I just do?'"

Over four weeks ago, during a hockey game between Boston and Vancouver, Boston's McSorley used his stick as a bat and Brashear's head as a ball. Vancouver police are charging McSorley for assault with a weapon.

During the summer, Novak says he works until the end of July. "I get one month off, in August," he says, adding the workload is mostly full time.

Novak says he would like to remain at the college for as long as possible.

Asked whether he enjoys his job, Novak says, "Absolutely. You have to."

Novak says people must enjoy what they are doing in life.

Electronics is a class Novak teaches more than any other class. "I love coming in at 8:30 a.m. and teaching these guys something, anything."

The Communications and Information Technology division received new computers from its involvement with Canadian Tire Acceptance, says Novak.

Because of the company's donation to the college, the Lundy wing was recently renamed the Canadian Tire Innovation Centre.

As Novak looks into his past, he says he would not change his choice of careers. If the opportunity was to arise, Novak says he decision would be the same. "The past is who you are. People should never have to regret the past."

Teacher recalls college hockey days, winning game at Boston Garden

By AARON WILSON
Staff Writer

Fred Bassi says the secret to being married for a long time is "communication." Bassi, 54, of Welland, is having his 30-year wedding anniversary on May 30.

Bassi, and his wife, Lauma, have a daughter, Kristine, and two sons, Jason and Dan.

'I like to see the students succeed. It makes me feel good'
— Fred Bassi

Bassi, who was born in Welland, teaches paramedics in the Law and Security Administration program and in the Police Foundations program at Niagara College. He teaches electives such as the history of sports, physical education, health science and general science.

It is the interaction with students he enjoys the most. "I like to see the students succeed. It makes me feel good."

His favourite place to visit is New England, for two reasons: "One, my wife is from there, and two, I went to school there."

Bassi went to Boston University on a hockey scholarship in 1963. He took one year off to play in the Eastern Hockey League. After that year he went back and completed his schooling. Bassi has a bachelor of science degree in physical education and health, and a minor in history.

Bassi played a year in the Eastern Hockey League with the Syracuse Blazers. "It was a tough league, and we played 72 games in 20 weeks, but it paid very well."

Bassi says one of his favourite moments was playing in the Beanpot Tournament while at Boston University. He says the annual hockey tournament showcased Harvard, Boston College, Northeastern and Boston University.

"It was for the bragging rights

FRED BASSI

to Boston." Bassi says it is a totally different experience playing college hockey in the States than in Canada. "The Boston Garden was sold out for every game." In Canada there is less enthusiasm for university and college sports.

"It's a different culture in the States, but it would be nice to see more people attend college and university sports in Canada."

He says hockey is one of his favourite sports. "I've played hockey since I was five. I got a scholarship to play hockey in college, and I coached hockey for 25 years," adding, "It is in my blood."

Bassi says his favourite sport moment was coaching in the 1989-90 championship hockey game, in which the Niagara Knights were victorious over Kitchener's Conestoga College. "It was the best game I ever coached."

Boxing is another sport he enjoys because it is physically demanding. "I like seeing two people prove which one is better, and I like how at the end of every boxing match the two boxers always shake hands and hug." He says it shows good sportsmanship.

He enjoys playing golf in his spare time. "I never used to play golf, and I always used to say golf is a lazy man's sport."

Bassi says he realizes golf takes a lot of skill. "It is far from being a lazy man's sport."

He enjoys spending his time relaxing with family and friends, he says, adding his favourite television show is NYPD Blue, and his favourite movie is The Godfather. Robert DeNiro "is a great actor because he makes the role seem believable."

Bassi says the people he admires the most are "the ones who go out of their way to help the less fortunate."

Bassi says he is a die-hard Montreal Canadiens hockey fan. "My greatest thrill was when I went to my first Canadiens game at the Montreal Forum."

One goal he has is to someday visit Europe with his wife. "I would especially like to go to Italy to see where my grandparents lived and to see where my father lived."

New SAC president elected

Continued from Front Page

being elected. Aside from posters, he set up a booth on the last day of campaigning and "basically talked to students about what my views are and why I would make a good president."

Asked if he had anything to say about his competitor Jason Boccinfuso, McLaughlin said, "Either way, SAC would have been in good hands next year. He ran a good campaign and I wish him the best." Boccinfuso is a first-year student in the Police Foundations program.

McLaughlin said he anticipates a "fun and exciting year ahead."

"I really look forward to serving as SAC president next year and I hope it's a wonderful year for everyone."

Golf club, college partnership provides education opportunities

Niagara College and its Glendale campus neighbour, the Royal Niagara Golf Club, have formed a partnership that responds to the growing needs of Niagara region's burgeoning golf industry.

The two parties have signed a framework agreement that commits them to work together to develop educational opportunities for students through co-op placements, site visits and site projects. The partners will work together to:

- promote tournaments and to provide student workers for tournament activities.
- share space for training and other activities.
- provide playing privileges to the college's Golf Management program students.
- develop and host joint workshops, seminars or conferences.
- develop joint initiatives to promote golf-related programs and the golf club on the national and international stage.

The agreement was signed as the college prepares to launch a three-year Business Administration — Professional Golf Management program this fall as the Royal Niagara Golf Club readies to open for May 2001.

"This partnership will create valuable opportunities for our students as the college responds to the growing need for trained employees in the golf sector," Martha Casson, Niagara College's vice-president, enterprise and student services, said in a college press release.

"The people behind the Royal Niagara are industry leaders — we're thrilled to have them as neighbours and now as partners."

"We're delighted to partner with such an enterprising organization," said Frank Racioppo, general manager of the Royal Niagara Golf Club. "We look forward to working together in ways that benefit both ourselves and the golf industry."

FACULTY FILES

Professor sees himself 'as a lifelong learner'

By JENNIFER CHORNLEY
Staff Writer

"Guest, thou shalt be happy here, for here happiness is esteemed the highest good," said a motto, which hung over the entrance of The Garden.

This quote came from the *Archetypes of Wisdom*, a textbook for the History of Western Philosophy course offered at Niagara College.

The Garden was a school of thought in Athens, Greece, established just after the time of Plato and Aristotle, by a man named Epicurus. Epicurus was an ancient Greek philosopher who welcomed anybody to his school of thought.

This is just one of the many philosophical lessons Tom Busnarda, 48, teaches within the History of Western Philosophy course.

Busnarda lives in Grimsby, Ont., with his wife, Linda, and their four daughters: Carla, 18, Angela, 15, and twin daughters Nicole and Natalie, 12.

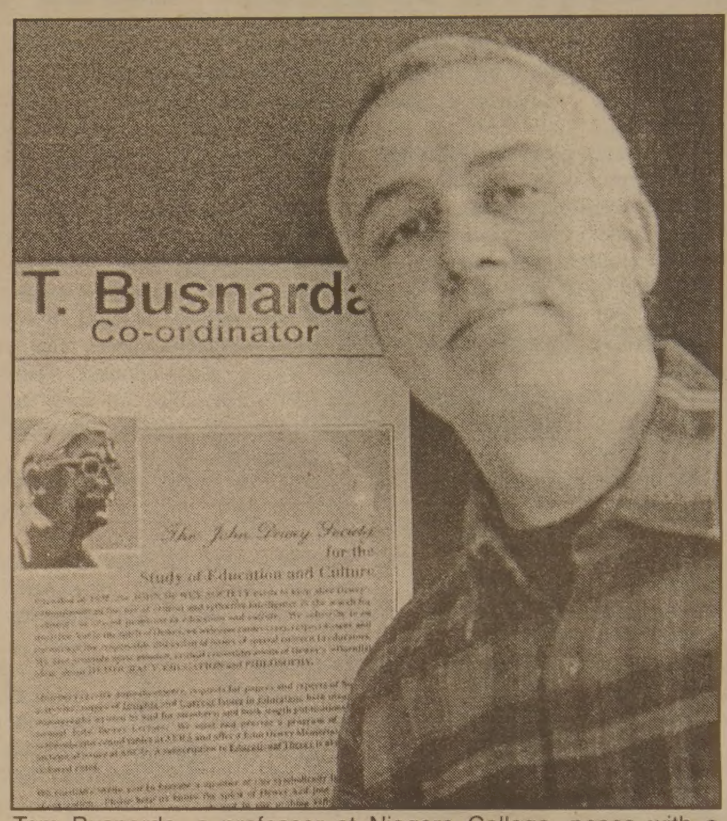
He has lived in Grimsby since 1978, but was born and raised in Hamilton, Ont. Busnarda is the eldest of three sons, and his brothers are Mike, 45, and John, 33.

Busnarda started teaching at Niagara 18 years ago as an instructor for the Women into Trades and Technology program. Busnarda was on a contract for one year, but he says, "If I finished obtaining my degree, I could get a better job. Also, since I had not finished completing my degree, completing it would give me a sense of self-satisfaction."

When he taught in the Women into Trades and Technology program, Busnarda taught mathematics, carpentry, introduction to welding and machine shop.

Busnarda began his post-secondary education at McMaster University in Hamilton in 1971. He studied history and political science. After his first year, he transferred to the University of Waterloo, in Waterloo, Ont. He says he made this move to "primarily live on my own."

However, after Busnarda's second year, he left his studies of history and politics and focused on working and travelling. "I found school to be boring. I wanted to travel. I wanted to work, and school wasn't relative to me at that point."



Tom Busnarda, a professor at Niagara College, poses with a poster describing the John Dewey Society.

Photo by Jennifer Chornley

In 1973, he began working at Dofasco, a steel company in Hamilton. He worked long enough to earn money to travel through Europe.

From 1974 to 1976, Busnarda travelled to Europe and northern Africa. Busnarda says his favourite countries were Spain and Holland. Busnarda went to England and France as well.

"Even though Holland was an expensive country, they are a very liberal society. It was eye opening to see different values and approaches to life. Also, the number of youth in Holland from Canada was outstanding, and it created a more communal atmosphere."

He says Europeans have more of a history and social conscience than North Americans.

Busnarda says he liked Spain because of the beaches and the sun. "At that time it was cheaper to drink beer than it was to drink water."

Busnarda travelled to Morocco, Africa's leading Muslim country. He says Morocco gave him the biggest cultural shock.

Since Morocco is Muslim, alcohol is illegal, but cannabis is accepted. "Cannabis plays the same role in a Muslim society as alcohol plays in a western society. Cannabis is a social thing, just as alcohol is. What's wrong in our society is right in their society and vice versa."

From 1977 to 1979, Busnarda attended George Brown College in Toronto, to become a journeyman ironworker.

His ironworker apprenticeship contained a combination of practical, classroom and workplace learning during the three years that he attended the program.

Busnarda is a professor at Brock University in St. Catharines and Niagara College in Welland.

He teaches on a part-time basis at Brock University. Busnarda teaches graduate and under-graduate courses in the discipline of education. He teaches some courses in the summer, in the evenings and during the day in the regular academic year.

The opportunity to teach at Brock University came in 1986, when Busnarda completed his master's of education degree in education.

John Novak, a professor at Brock University and an adviser on a project Busnarda was completing, offered Busnarda a teaching position. "This complements both teaching positions at Niagara College and Brock University. I was flattered that I was chosen," says Busnarda, who has a combined bachelor's degree in history and politics. History was Busnarda's major course of study and politics was his minor. Busnarda completed this degree at Brock.

Novak is a professor at Brock teaching in the college of education and is the author of several books on education.

One example of Novak's books is *Inviting School Success*, which, Busnarda says, he considers important. "The book is self-explanatory; it is about teaching and learning."

Busnarda says his favourite book is *Democracy and Education*, by John Dewey. "It provided me with a context for resolving questions I had about life in general and the role of education in one's life. It was considered food for thought, an avenue to deepen my thought about the meaning of life."

At Niagara, Busnarda has a full-time faculty position. He teaches politics, philosophy, psychology and sociology in the introductory and more advanced levels.

He is co-ordinator for General Education in the School of General and Preparatory Studies. His responsibilities are to co-ordinate and develop general education courses for all post-secondary programs.

Busnarda has been the co-ordinator of other programs as well. He was the co-ordinator for the General Arts and Science program from 1995 to 1999; from 1989 to 1992, he co-ordinated the Human Relations program and in 1987 he was co-ordinator for the Career and College Opportunities program.

Busnarda's boss is Stewart Kallio, chair, and Kallio's boss is Barry Sharpe, the dean. The co-ordinator reports to the chair, and the chair reports to the dean.

"My best personality trait is my ability to empathize, and this is what I pride myself on. I am understanding, a good listener, caring and a source of comfort. The real value of life is friendship, which is true in both a professional and personal point of view in an Epicurean mind."

Lack of organization is what, Busnarda says, is his worst personality trait. "I am not sure if that is a strength or weakness," he joked. He says not being self-assured about himself is another weakness, adding being overly empathetic to the point where his own feelings are not legitimized is another weakness he faces.

"I like my job because I like the students. I always enjoyed the interaction and the possibility of making a difference. I see myself as a lifelong learner. I like books and the library because it is all part of my work life.

"The politics always get in the way of effective teaching, prep time, class sizes and professional development. Time has eroded over the years, while classes have enlarged," he says, explaining what he doesn't like about his job.

The invention of the printing press, ancient Greece and the birth of Christ are events from the past millennia, Busnarda says, which are important. "Ancient Greece, because of the heavy influence it played during the past 2,000 years in the West and the world, and the birth of Christ because of its heavy influence on Christianity. My thinking as a historian I had to add that (the birth of Christ)."

Busnarda says his predictions include an increase in tribal warfare in Third World countries, and an economic crisis, or "certainly a readjustment of the global economy."

Busnarda says his accomplishment is life. "I am content in my life and I look forward to the future."

Social Science co-ordinator self-proclaimed 'perfectionist'

By STEPHEN D'ORAZIO
Staff Writer

She's just another one of the top teachers at Niagara College.

Karen Moreau-Petti, of Fonthill, is the co-ordinator of the Social Science Department at the college.

She has been here for 18 years, teaching many different courses, including psychology, history, criminal law, politics, the court system, and federal statutes.

She says she enjoys teaching at the college, but would have become a lawyer if she had not gotten into teaching.

"At one point I thought about going back to law school, but decided to stay here (at Niagara College). I do enjoy teaching."

Before coming to Niagara she taught one year at a grade school near Simcoe and two years in Welland teaching Grades 7 and 8.

Moreau-Petti, originally from Niagara Falls, has a bachelor of arts in history from Brock University in St. Catharines. She is attending Brock for her master's degree in history.

Moreau-Petti, an avid art fan, teaches art history courses in addition to other courses she has taught at Niagara. She says if she had to pick, Neoclassicism would be her favourite type of art.

"I love the detailing, the clean lines and the bright colours of Neoclassical art."

As for artists, she says Ingres and Van Gogh are her two favourites.

"You should see a real Van Gogh. The thickness of the paint and the colours are just stunning."

Even though she has "a great appreciation" for art, she says she never thought of becoming an artist.

"Mine is not a talent that would get me anywhere. I can draw, but not like a professional artist."

Moreau-Petti has three children: Elizabeth, 15, Caitlin, 13, and Anthony, 10. She says her family is the most important thing in her life. "My family comes first in my life."

Moreau-Petti, who recently spent nine days over the Christmas holidays in Portugal, says she enjoys travelling.

"I like to travel. It just takes a lot of money."

She was a chaperon on a trip to Portugal for her daughter Elizabeth's high school band. She says she went because it was a "wonderful opportunity."

While in Portugal they took a tour of the country. She says every day they awoke somewhere new.

"We toured all over. We got to see their churches and famous buildings. It is a beautiful country.

"The band did play, but I went for the sights. I enjoy going on tours."

She says she has been "all over" Europe, the southern part of the United States, as well as Ottawa and Quebec "many times." She says she enjoys going down south to the Maryland area the best.

"I have family down in Maryland . . . I know the area, and the people are very nice."

Outside of school, Moreau-Petti says one of her main interests is learning. She says she is still taking courses in computers, in addition to getting her master's degree.

"Learning is really enjoyable to me. I mean, you can always learn something new."

Moreau-Petti describes herself as "a perfectionist." She says she is demanding but sees herself as a nice person, although she might seem strict in the classroom.

"People are paying money to be here. They might as well learn."

CAMPUS COVERAGE

Social component 'important part' of pub

By HEIDI MORRISON
Staff Writer

A request. A vision. And After Hours was born.

After Hours, the on-campus pub at Niagara College in Welland, was "envisioned" by Betty Ferguson, then director of student life.

"That was via request from the student council," says Dave Rapelje, 33, student life manager at After Hours.

After hiring an architect to draft some blueprints and design concepts, the Student Administrative Council (SAC) took a vote and "increased the student fee to start building a pool of money to generate the funds to build the student centre," Rapelje says. "The end result being that they finally had enough money to go ahead and proceed to build in 1990, and the student centre opened in 1991."

After Hours was up and running. Over the last nine years, he says, he feels it has made a difference.

"With all aspects of student life at a college, one aspect is really a large social component. I think that as much as all the other facets of school are just as important, having a place to convene, to socialize, or really just to have an environment to listen and look at other people, is I think very beneficial."

Rapelje says the social component at After Hours is an "important part of shaping who people become.

'I think that in today's day and age, any income that can be generated while being a student is considered good.'

"Some of the kids that come have a belief system that suggest that they think certain things are certain ways and they start to hear about other people and the way that other people do things. And you start to realize just how different and diverse the world is."

He says that After Hours is "undertaking an addition" this summer. There will be a "major renovation on the interior," which can give students something to look forward to.

'The funds that are generated from the operation are completely 100 per cent given back to the students, via the student council.'

On a typical day, Rapelje says "from an administrative perspective," he is responsible for overseeing the operation of the Welland student centre as well as the one at the Glendale campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake. Further to that, he does the entertainment and special events programming.

The SAC owns the Welland and the Glendale operations. Rapelje is hired by the Student Centre Management Committee to run those operations for them. "The funds that are generated from the operation are completely 100 per cent given back to the students, via the student council."

After Hours is open on Wednesday and Thursday nights. These are the "entertainment nights," says Rapelje. "Thursday night has traditionally always been a campus pub night. That's just our night to give students an opportunity to come out and socialize and have some fun." He says they've "come a long way" from when he was a student at the college and pub nights were held in the cafeteria.

After Hours offers theme nights, special events, and contest-oriented opportunities for variety.

For the past five years, the pub has had a free comedy presentation on Wednesday nights.

Rapelje says he feels it is a "great night because a lot of students start to get burnt out this time of year." He says he is a "firm believer that laughter really is the best medicine."

Dave Rapelje, student life manager at After Hours, relaxes behind the bar at the popular hangout for students at the Welland campus.

Photo by Heidi Morrison

The music played during the day is "customer driven," because it is selected from the juke box. A deejay is hired for Wednesday and Thursday nights. "Wednesday nights, it's more of a collective mix. Thursday night is predominantly a mix of dance music, some R and B, some hip hop and we always like to play some fun, old stuff too."

After Hours is open Monday to Friday at 8:30 a.m. and closes between 4 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. During the day, the pub has free entertainment and student council-run events. The kitchen and bar are open to offer "pub fare," such as hamburgers, french fries and chicken wings, he says.

Aside from Rapelje and the bar services manager, all the employees of After Hours are full-time students. Their positions include deejay, security, bussers, bartenders and student supervisor. Asked if he felt it was a help to financially struggling students, Rapelje says, "I think that in today's day and age, any income that can be generated while being a student is considered good. For a lot of students, they get paid and they still see their friends. For the most part, it's a pretty lively environment and I like to think that we have a fun program where the staff gets to still be students and still have fun, but they also learn some viable skills."

Rapelje says After Hours is a "positive part of the campus" and it adds "nicely to the elements of student life.

"For the most part, I do believe it's an important service and I think it's been well received by the student population. To me, any operation that continues to grow is a sign of a successful operation."

Free counselling services available to students

By CALUM McNEIL
Staff Writer

Students needing emotional or scholastic help should go to Niagara College's Counselling Services.

Jocelyn Briggs is the co-ordinator of the Student Services division at the college.

She has been working at Niagara for 19 years and has a bachelor's degree in psychology from York University, in Toronto.

"On an average day our counsellors will see eight students," says Briggs, "Generally half are male and half are female."

Briggs says students come to counselling with many problems. "Generally the problems are interrelated. Usually students who are having emotional problems are having academic problems as well."

The counselling, says Briggs, involves everything from helping students manage their time more effectively, to helping them assess what they have an aptitude for. Students are questioned about their study habits and how they manage their time.

"We don't do intelligence quotient (IQ) testing of students. We are more interested in determining where their interests lie and helping move them in that direction." Briggs says counsellors would never discourage students from going into a particular program unless the students lacked the marks or requisite skills.

Counsellors assess applicants for mature student status and high school equivalency. "To qualify for mature student status an applicant must be over 21 and not a high school graduate."

Briggs says when counsellors test for high school equivalency, they are primarily interested in testing for skills which the program requires. If students are not going to need math in their program, the counsellor will not hold a low math score against them.

When a student comes to a counsellor with emotional or psychological problems, a counsellor may refer the student to a medical professional within the community.

'We all want the students to be as successful as they can be and to get the most out of the college experience.'

"If a student has problems which are beyond that which we can deal with, we can arrange for them to see a professional through the agencies we are in contact with, and then we will continue to see them regularly to make sure they are doing all right."

Any problem students reveal during counselling, whether personal or otherwise, is kept confidential, says Briggs. "We never release information without the student's permission."

Briggs says her division deals with the student information sessions in April and with the Start Right program in August. "Each program decides how they want to present their information and then they pass it on to us. We assemble the paperwork and co-ordinate with the other programs on when they can present. We teach sessions at Start Right in August about financial aid, time management and study habits. There are tours and chances for new students to meet with faculty."

Briggs says students can get admission and online learning forms, job placement statistics, continuing education information, Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP) forms, graduate placement reports and college and university calendars from the counselling centre at each campus.

Briggs says she works 35 hours a week and doesn't "feel overworked." She says the job can be stressful but she "finds it enjoyable and fulfilling."

Briggs says if she could improve her division in any way, it would be to provide more time for students. She says, sometimes, she doesn't have enough time to give the attention they need. "We all want the students to be as successful as they can be and to get the most out of the college experience. That's why we're here."

For more information, or to make an appointment, either go to the nearest centre or call 905-735-2211, ext. 7778 for the Welland and Niagara Falls campuses, and 905-641-2252, ext. 4409 for the Glendale campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

The counselling services are free, confidential and available to all present and prospective full- and part-time students.

FACULTY FILES

Teacher, politician enjoys helping people

By PAUL FINELLI
Staff Writer

Whether serving the community academically or politically, Michael (Mike) Collins said he has always had the pleasure of meeting and working with terrific people and doing what he most enjoys.

Collins, 56, of St. Catharines, has been an instructor at Niagara College for 33 years. He teaches English and municipal finance at the Welland campus as well as a course on crime and punishment at the Glendale campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

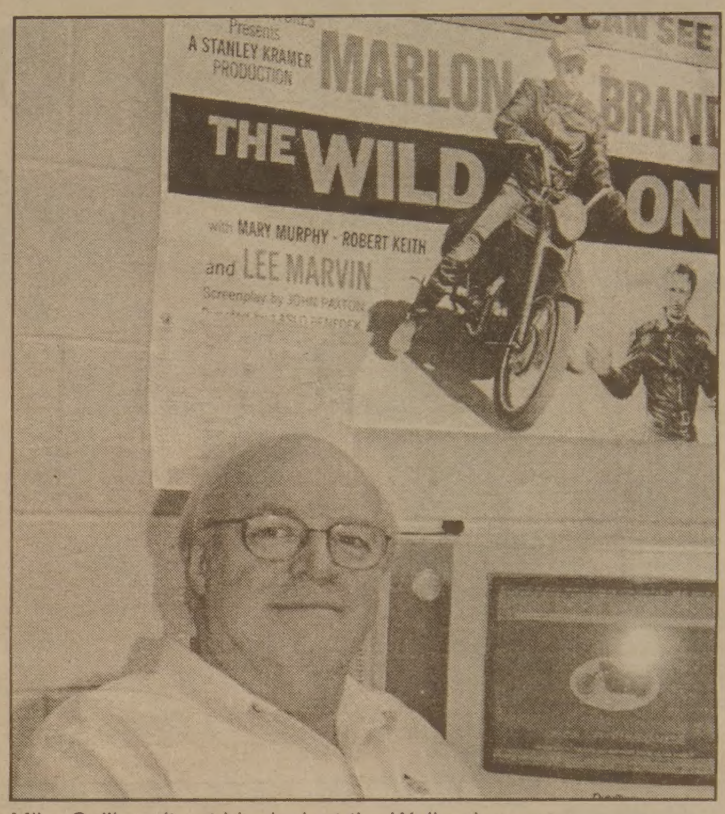
Collins was born in Merritton, a small town long since gone but now a ward of St. Catharines, a city that didn't exist back in his childhood. His father was a plant inspector at General Motors, his mother a secretary to a federal court judge. Asked whether he had siblings, Collins replied he has a brother.

Collins attended Carleton University in Ottawa, an education he financed mainly by working summers at a paper mill, the Beaver Wood Fibre Co., in Thorold. Brock University didn't open its doors in St. Catharines until he was already in his second year at Carleton.

He said he had initially chosen Carleton to take journalism, but as it was not offered until his second year, he resigned himself instead to a three-year bachelor's degree in English.

While he studied English, Collins found other means to pursue what he described as "my introduction to journalism." He worked part time for the school newspaper covering varsity sports, such as football and basketball, and even took stints as a part-time writer for The Canadian Press and the Ottawa Journal. He graduated with his English degree and journalistic experience in 1966.

He began teaching Grade 11 and 12 English at a St. Catharines high school and served on the Lincoln County Public School Board before he was hired in 1967 as an English instructor at the new Niagara College in Welland.



Mike Collins sits at his desk at the Welland campus.
Photo by Paul Finelli

Collins said he got his first dose of politics running for, and getting elected as, his Thorold high school's student council vice-president, but it was in 1968 he first took real interest in party politics as a career.

In 1974, at the age of 30, his political career took flight when he ran for, and won, election to St. Catharines city council as representative of the ward of Merritton, a seat to which he was later re-elected for a second straight term.

However, in 1978, Collins left politics for a while for his family's sake. "I took a few turns off while my children were growing up. I spent a lot of time coaching (boys') hockey," he said. He has a son and daughter, ages 33 and 30 respectively, who have both attended the college. He shied away from the mention of his divorce, acknowledging only that he is "single."

In 1985, Collins returned to the local political ring to successfully win three consecutive elections to St. Catharines city council as representative of St. George's ward and a seat on Niagara regional council, representing the city. Collins has, since 1997, been solely on regional council, representing St. Catharines again, thus making it five city and regional elections he has won.

However, in 1994, he tried his hand at provincial politics when he ran for the Liberal nomination as an MPP for the then riding of Brock, which he did receive. "I got it (the nomination); however, I did not win." A little-known provincial legislation held that Collins would have had to resign from the college if elected to office, as college instructors and administrators are technically viewed as Crown employees, so he couldn't take office.

Collins said he refused to give up the job he loves and he was upset by the legal revelation. "I felt it was very unfair, as high school principals and university professors didn't have to resign immediately." He explained that, unlike college employees, they're officially seen as working for their boards.

As for his active role in local politics, especially his present seat on Niagara regional council, he said the job brings him excitement. "Every so often you get to help people.

"I meet a lot of fine people. Many of them volunteered to help me over the years for no reason other than they want to be involved in the process. I've had a chance to meet interesting people . . . like (MPPs for St. Catharines) Jim Bradley and Mel Swart."

He cited one important task for which he was called upon to vote as regional councillor and that he found "very rewarding": the region's proposed 911 phone-emergency system. Council passed the motion in the late 1980s, despite most voters' initial misgivings of the phone-emergency system, Collins said. "Even though people said that it wasn't needed, I know it has been . . . People said it was costing too much but it has saved lives."

He said he has no personal disfavour with any other local politician, including those he sits with on regional council. "I have clashed with members of council with issues. As individuals, I respect them. From time to time, in local politics we do clash over issues . . . but afterwards we can go out and have a coffee."

> ***'I'd love to get a motorcycle and go roaring around southern Ontario. That would be exciting, although dangerous for an inexperienced driver.'***

He added he views his political colleagues as hard-working individuals and at times as good acquaintances. Most important, he said, he shares one thing with every one of them: "We're all working in our own way for the taxpayers."

He said none of the councillors really digs into one another personally, and professional respect aside, heated disagreements are part of the political game, as is the risk of losing respect from colleagues and voters.

"Some weeks we're on the same side, sometimes we're not. Sometimes you have to stick to your guns. You don't always end up looking good. I've lost a few (political battles) and I've won a few.

"I can be replaced at the next election — I'm aware of that. Enough of the voters had confidence in me and I want to keep that confidence."

Asked if he had any higher political ambitions, he said no. "I think if I can serve one more term as a councillor, I would think I've accomplished my (goals).

"I think maybe then I'll go back to coaching hockey and I like to work at the soup kitchen (the Ozanam Centre in St. Catharines)." Having helped serve lunch there before when he found the time, he said, "That's when you find out how lucky you are." He related the centre's namesake was Father Ozanam, a priest living many centuries ago who spent his life feeding the poor.

He said he wishes to return to Europe to see the "great sites" like Rome and Athens and walk along the Great Wall of China, adding he thinks in one or two years he'll be able to trek the globe among other activities.

"I'd love to get a motorcycle and go roaring around southern Ontario. That would be exciting, although dangerous for an inexperienced driver."

As for his teaching at the college, Collins said he has praise for his fellow instructors. "Of course, I've been fortunate to work at the college with some great people." Still, he added, he has slight misgivings about the college.

"The classes are larger, and I don't always get the chance to get to know the students even a bit, to get to know them as individuals."

Nevertheless, he said, he continues to love teaching, particularly crime and punishment. "Lately, I've been teaching some courses that are new . . . and it's an adventure," he said, adding with a smile, one was his own creation. "Right now, we're studying about biker gangs. It's exciting for me and that has been something I have been looking forward to."

He said he cannot wait for the fall, when he will begin teaching a new course he designed that is about film, another love of his. He listed his favourite films as Casablanca and Easy Rider.

In addition to his teaching and political duties, he has been a voting member on such public organizations as the Niagara Regional Board of Health and Family and Children's Services. He remains a member of the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority, the Regional Public Works and Utilities Committee, as well as the St. Catharines General Hospital board of directors.

Collins offered some candid advice for students hoping to follow his professional roads, be it in journalism or in politics. "They should do a lot of reading — a lot of it can be done on the Internet now. Don't be afraid to get work experience with (little or) no pay in your career field. Take it, whether for pay or no pay. Get hundreds of hours of it." He said the experiences can still prove worthwhile, even if you do have to pay your dues for a while.

As an example, he cited his having once worked as a reporter 15 years ago for some area radio stations, when he covered all of the major theatrical productions at the Shaw Festival in Niagara-on-the-Lake and the Stratford Festival in Stratford. He said, while he was not being paid, he did see all of the shows for free.

> ***'I meet a lot of fine people. Many of them volunteered to help me over the years for no reason . . .'***

He said among his more pleasing radio assignments were his interviews with actors Gene Hackman and Christopher Reeve in the early 1980s, when the movie Superman II was being partly shot in Niagara Falls. "That was exciting (for me)."

Letter to the Editor

We have readers in Hungary

Dear Editor:

Your managing editor, Phyllis Barnatt, has been kind enough to send me copies of the *Niagara News* over the past several years.

They are employed as supplementary material and are eagerly awaited by my students who study English at a senior level at this university in Budapest.

They read the *Niagara News* with great interest, because they know it is produced by students their age, with similar aspirations and challenges, who live in a totally different culture far away.

Once again, many thanks for enriching my students' academic lives with some Canadian culture.

George A. Blazetich
Professor
Semmelweis University
Budapest, Hungary

JOURNALISM PRINT BEST OF YEAR TWO PHOTO CONTEST 2000

Best of Year Two Contest Winners (l to r) - Rob Lapensée, Mike Wencel, Jamie McIntosh, John Robbins, Penni Lafleur, Natsuko Tamura, Leigh Beihl, Jason Vizbulis and Sam Bayly.

The Seventh Annual Niagara College Journalism-Print "Best of Year 2" Photography Contest is open to second-year journalism students only. It is the start of preparation for their photography portfolio development. Submissions are made as 8 x 10 traditional, black and white prints of images captured in the course of study.

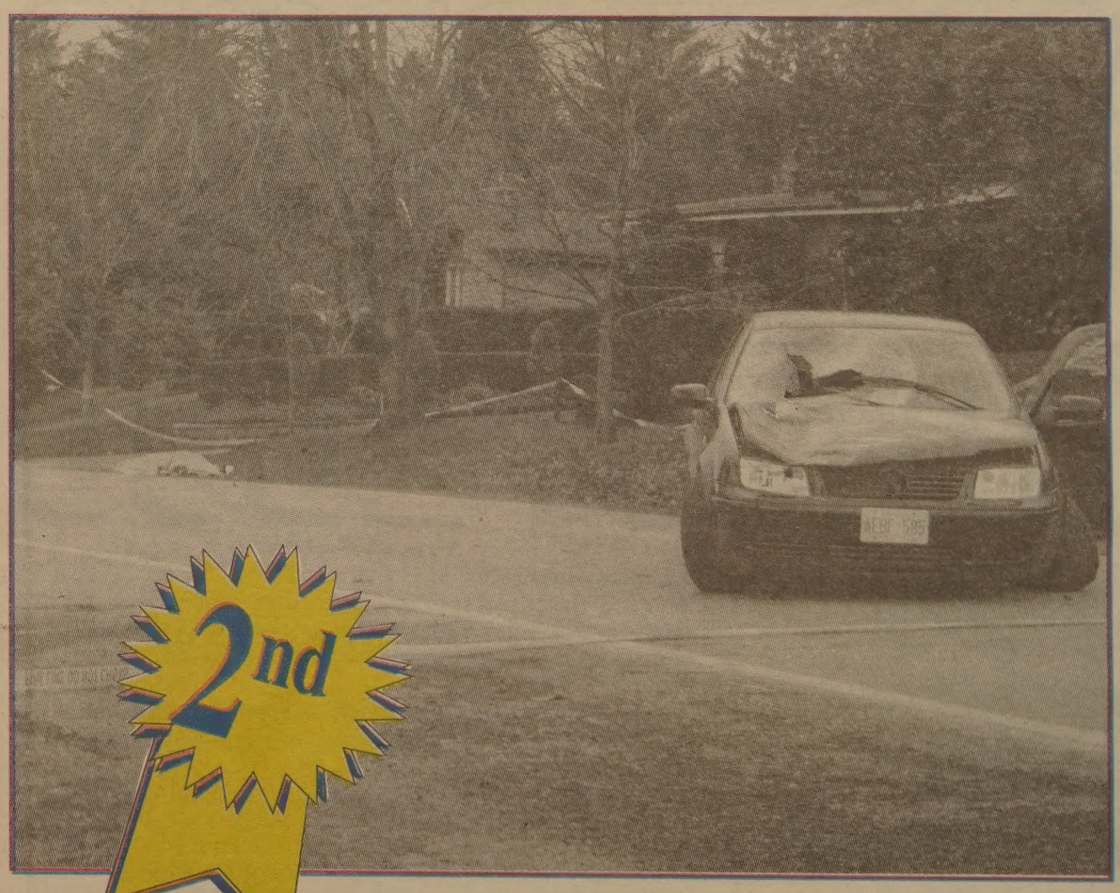
Phyllis Barnatt, co-ordinator of the Journalism-Print program, has often said she enjoys the contest because it shows a diversity of images the students have *not* been submitting for the Niagara News.

The contest was judged by the program's advisory committee including Michael Brown, managing editor of the Niagara Falls Review, Paul Fiocca, publisher of Trajan Publishing Corp., Doug Firby, managing editor of the St. Catharines Standard, Gary Manning, managing editor of the Welland Tribune and chairman of the advisory committee, Jim Middleton, former managing editor of the Welland Tribune, Carolyn Mullin, managing editor of the Voice of Pelham, Paul Paterson, editor of What's Up Kids, Mark Reihl, editor of the Grimsby Independent, Joe Wallace, a desk editor at the St. Catharines Standard, and Paul Wilson, a columnist for the Hamilton Spectator, on March 22.

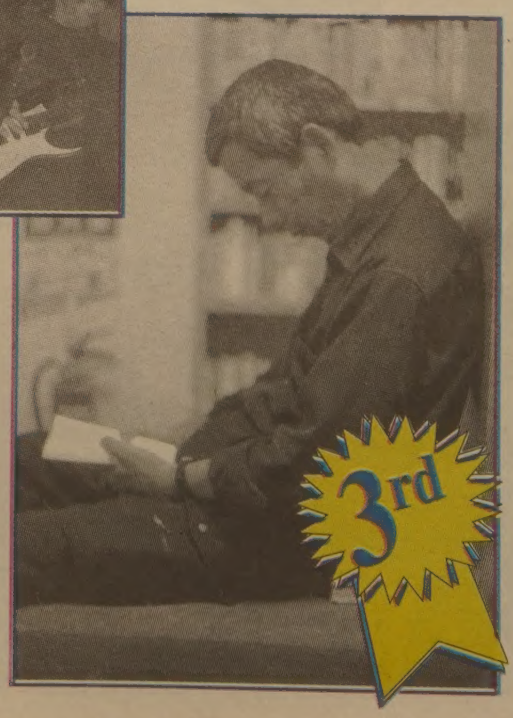
Special thanks to Bell Arte Camera of Hamilton, Kodak Canada, Jim Middleton, the Niagara Falls Review, Leo Tiberi – director of the Communications and Information Technology division of Niagara College, The St. Catharines Standard, The Welland Tribune, The Voice of Pelham and the photo desk at Zehrs, Welland for donating prizes for the seventh annual "Best of Year 2" photography contest.

News

First Place - Tara Purpura
Second Place - Penni Lafleur
Third Place - Penni Lafleur



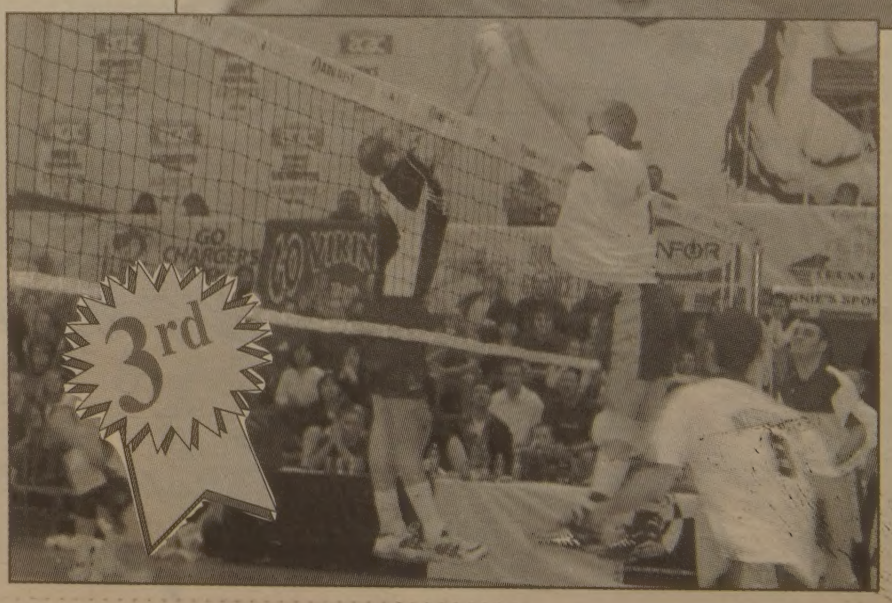
Human Interest



First Place and Best of Show - John Robbins
Second Place - Sam Bayly (top) and Tara Purpura (bottom)
Third Place - Leigh Beihl (top) and Natsuko Tamura (bottom)

Sports

First Place - Jamie McIntosh
Second Place - Mike Wencel
Third Place - Rob Lapensée (top)
& Jason Vizbulis (bottom)



POST-SECONDARY CHOICES

Society's perception of higher learning

The bias between college, university education continues

By CHRISTINE CHALONER
Staff Writer

It's one of the toughest decisions of your life, and it could change your entire future.

The choice is between college and university. The question is, which one is better?

"There is no difference between a diploma and a degree," says Megan Murray, 20, of St. Catharines.

She says she chose university because the program was broader and left options open for her. She is in a second-year Sociology program at Brock University in St. Catharines.

"I didn't know what I wanted to really do and decided that starting with a degree would get me somewhere," says Murray, adding, "College was more specific and I didn't want to choose a particular trade."

Danielle Finch, 17, says she feels that college will be better for her "but it all depends on the individual for which school they do choose." Finch, of St. Catharines, is in Grade 12 at the St. Catharines Collegiate and says she plans to apply to Niagara College for the Early Childhood Education program.

Co-op is one factor that helps students deciding between college and university.

"I can't go very far because I don't have the money, which only leaves Niagara or Brock. Niagara has the program I want and will give me the co-op to find a job in day care," says Finch.

Mike Stiles says he doesn't know which institution would give him a better job, but with college, "they put your foot in the door with co-op," but with a university degree that "can get you almost anywhere."

'I always learned that after high school you go to university. It was the higher learning.'
— Mike Stiles

Stiles, 20, of St. Catharines, is in the Computer Programmer Analyst program at Niagara College's Welland campus. Stiles attended Brock last year for computer science, but says he had a bad experience and "would never go back to Brock." He says the teacher-student relationship was "terrible" and the professors were not around enough or were "intimidating."

Chris Paul, 38, of St. Catharines, has two children. The oldest is in Grade 10 and looking into universities. Paul says if you want advancement in a job you should go to university. "University is meant to be better. The professors have higher education and give better education to students than college. The same person that could graduate from college probably couldn't graduate from university."

'There is no difference between a diploma and a degree.'
— Megan Murray

Cindy Aird-May says from college you would get a "better" job. "University is to get a piece of paper and college is hands-on.

"What I can see from my children is that college is better. The teachers [from university] are paid so much and students get a half-assed education," says Aird-May.

Aird-May, 43, of St. Catharines, has two daughters going to Niagara. Her one daughter went to Brock last year before changing to college.

"It is terrible that someone with a degree from university could be looked at as better than someone from college. Education is education," says Aird-May.

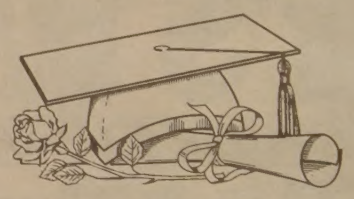
Paul says he would suggest a "career-minded person" who wanted an executive position later in life should go to university. If a "regular worker" who doesn't want to be on the "top" in a job goes to school, it should be college.

'It is terrible that someone with a degree from university could be looked at as better than someone from college.'
— Cindy Aird-May

Another issue to remember when choosing post-education education is the cost. Each year, a student pays at least $1,000 more in university than college.

"There is no justification as to why it is so expensive," says Aird-May, adding, "A bigger, fancier building shouldn't make university more expensive."

Paul says he didn't know the difference was that high and it "might be too much for too little." Paul went to Niagara College in 1980 and says he couldn't get a job during the recession so he decided to get a trade at college.



"The cost is not just towards the school, which is a better quality education, but aimed towards low-income families to make it accessible for them to attend school," says Paul, adding, "A lot of the price is incidental fees to help other people, like day care."

Finch says the price difference is "horrible and unreasonable" since students are going to learn the same stuff.

Murray says the price at university is not worth it and the classes that students are made to take should be optional. "The seminars are stupid, and I should be getting my marks from what I learn, not what a biased TA (teacher's assistant) thinks of me."

"In high school, we had the presentations, and I think there were about eight different universities that came to talk and only a few colleges. They (teachers) push towards university and tell us that we should all have our Grade 13," says Finch, adding, "My aunt pushes towards university because that's where she went."

Murray says high school prepares students for university and would mention it in a lot in classes, but it was her decision where to go.

Stiles says high school didn't tell you more about one than the other but his mother "really wanted" him to go to university. She had gone to the University of Western Ontario in London, Ont. He says that was a main reason he went to university in the first place.

'I can't go very far because I don't have the money, which only leaves Niagara or Brock.'
— Danielle Finch

"She is one of those people, who believe that university is better than college," says Stiles about his mother. "I always learned that after high school you go to university. It was the higher learning."

"There isn't a better choice between university and college. It all depends on the profession you choose. If you want to be in a trade, university isn't for you; college can get you there. If you want to be a lawyer or banker, then university is the way, so college and university are equal, depending on the profession," says Stiles.

Thank you to all our advertisers

INTERCON

Attention Security Professionals
Start your career with us!

Intercon Security is searching for dedicated and proud security professionals who are interested in a career in the private security field.

Regular Full Time Security Officer
Temporary Summer Security Officers

— Why choose Intercon? —

- Placements in corporate, retail, or commercial sites
- Attractive full-time benefits and pay rates based on skills and performance
- Comprehensive in-house training such as First Aid/CPR and defensive tactics
- Career Pathing into Supervisory, Mobile, Locksmithing, and Dispatch available
- 28 years of sustained growth & success

— Requirements: —

- Minimum grade 12 diploma, LASA and PFP graduates encouraged to apply
- Able to work rotating shifts and weekends
- Excellent communication and service skills
- Experienced Officers welcomed

Intercon Security
40 Sheppard Ave West, Toronto, ON, M2N 6K9
Career Line: 416-229-6949 | Fax: 416-229-1207, Attention: Recruiting
email: recruiting@interconsecurity.com | www.interconsecurity.com

Your business education is our business

Fly higher, faster

Your college education is a crucial step in launching your career. Continue your education at a distance through Athabasca University. We can help get your business career off the ground with a:

- **Bachelor of Commerce**
  with an optional e-Commerce major
- **Bachelor of Administration**
  with a concentration in Health Administration, Organization, Management, or Industrial Relations/Human Resources
- **Bachelor of Administration (post-diploma)**
  by completing 10 to 15 courses
- **University Certificate in Computers and Management Information Systems**
- **University Certificate in Accounting**
  (CA, CMA, and CGA transferable)

Enrol in a full program or just one flexible home-study course, or

Sign up now for new e-classes!
Study in a paced, virtual classroom over the Internet! Register today for e-classes that start in September 2000 and January 2001.

For more information, contact the School of Business:
http://vital.athabascau.ca
school.of.business@athabascau.ca
1-888-449-8813

Athabasca University
Canada's Open University™

PRESS BOX

Niagara News delivers for over 30 years

By SCOTT ROSTS
Staff Writer

Room S212 in the Simcoe building may just look like a computer lab, but inside it houses a full-scale production room for a professional newspaper.

The *Niagara News* was started at Niagara College in 1968. Austin Jelbert was the original co-ordinator of the Journalism-Print program and held the title until 1991.

In 1971, the Graphic Arts Department joined with the journalism students, allowing the use of mechanical and photographic equipment in the production of the *Niagara News*. This is the same year the journalism students got their own newsroom with a simulated news office, Teletype machine and darkroom.

In 1991, Jelbert stepped aside and Phyllis Barnatt, of Fort Erie, became co-ordinator after spending two years as a faculty member. Barnatt graduated from the Journalism-Print program in 1979 and received her honours bachelor of arts degree in politics from Brock University in St. Catharines in 1978. She worked at the *Fort Erie Times-Review* as a reporter for eight months, editor for about three years and managing editor for seven years. Barnatt joined the college faculty in 1990. She said she was trying to see if she was still "marketable" and felt teaching was a "stable profession." Barnatt still freelances for the *Niagara Falls Review*, *Schizophrenia Digest*, and *What's Up Kids*, a tabloid-sized magazine.

That same year more change occurred with $20,000 of Macintosh desktop publishing equipment being brought in, making the process more electronic. The equipment allowed production to move more quickly and helped the college keep up with the industry standard.

Technology moved even further ahead when the newspaper changed from a cut-and-paste method, to full electronic pagination in 1999. New Macintosh computers were purchased by the college through the capital budget, to create an up-to-date production room. The process had "tremendously" changed, allowing for even quicker production, said Barnatt, 44.

"It's the best-equipped newsroom in the area."

After more than 30 years in circulation, the *Niagara News* has been a full-time commitment for Journalism-Print program students. Along with holding a full course load, students work at producing the paper throughout the year. The professional paper reports on Niagara College and the outside community.

The paper is produced by second-year students from the start of the school year to the end of March. At the start of April, the first-year students take over for two issues as the second-year students move on to placement. By graduation, a student has 16 issues of the *Niagara News* to include in a portfolio.

"It's excellent training," said Barnatt.

Barnatt said faculty tries to encourage the work habits in students that an employer would expect from a new employee. The paper is done entirely by the students and overseen by faculty.

The administration has no control over the content of the paper. She said there is a respect for the paper's professionalism. Students "taste every aspect," doing design, some editing, some advertising sales and being part of the photo crew, she said, adding, the process is "hands on" and prepares students to be employed in a newsroom.

Barnatt said that accuracy, deadlines, teamwork, language skills and attention to detail are some of the most important aspects of working on the paper.

"Accuracy is No. 1."

She said a trust is needed that reporters will be accurate and on time.

"It's how the industry works."

If this trust is broken it's hard to establish it again, she said.

Barnatt said emphasizing ethics is important. She said one of the reasons she wanted to go into teaching, was that she had a concern for the ethics in young reporters. She said reporters have to look beyond personal position.

"We have a lot of power, but we also have a lot of responsibility."

> ***'We have a lot of power, but we also have a lot of responsibility.' — Phyllis Barnatt***

After the production of each issue of the paper is finished, it is taken to CanWeb Printing in Grimsby. CanWeb publishes 5,000 copies, which the college receives early the next morning. The college has 2,400 copies sent to all campuses, and about 2,600 to Jumbo Video and Avondale stores throughout the region.

Funding to cover the cost of printing comes from the Journalism-Print budget and is funded by Niagara College. Additional money comes from advertising. Leo Tiberi, director of the Communications and Information Technology Division, is the newspaper's publisher.

Barnatt said she is happy with how the *Niagara News* has grown. She says there is a lot of support and belief in the Journalism-Print program.

The paper will grow even more and hit a bigger audience when it goes online on the Internet. She says it's been a goal for about the past year and a half. This April, three second-year program students will work with an Interactive Multimedia Post-graduate student to take up the task.

They will research the look of other newspaper sites and consult the faculty and Tiberi on what type of design they want to display. From there, the students will create a template and the *Niagara News* will be able to be put online. After this, they will work to make an archive of past newspapers and eventually add links to more information.

Barnatt said the online version should appeal to anyone interested in post-secondary education, anywhere in the world. She said it would give an opportunity for the population to see and find out what actually happens at Niagara College.

Throughout the school year, the *Niagara News* publishes 16 issues. If you want to know what's happening in college sports or at the pub, you can pick up the paper and use it as an informative tool. To the students in the Journalism-Print program, however, the *Niagara News* is a résumé.

WORLD WATCH

80,000 people missing in Venezuelan flood

Thousands of children don't have homes, clothes, friends or family

By CLINTON HAGGART
Staff Writer

Thousands of people died in Venezuela during the December floods.

"A lot of people don't have homes, and a lot of children don't have parents," says Carlos Faria, 37, of Caracas, Venezuela. Faria, a student in the English as a Second Language (ESL) program, was in Venezuela during the floods.

Sergio Paez, 26, of Valencia, Venezuela, says the people in Venezuela will mourn for a long time. "Maybe six months," Paez added.

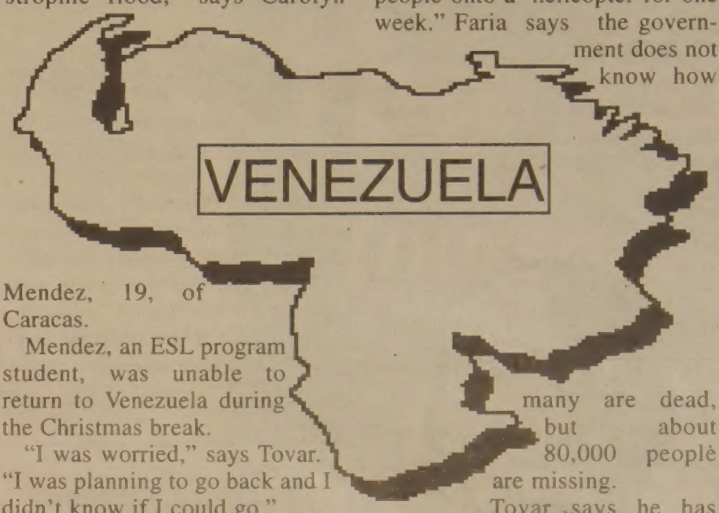
Faria and Paez say their families are OK but Paez, an ESL student, says his family's house on the coast was washed away.

"Houses on the mountains were going down," says Alejandro Tovar, 19, of Caracas, referring to the avalanches of mud and rock that carried houses away.

> ***'It is the first time it happened this century. It is the most catastrophic flood.' — Carolyn Mendez***

Tovar returned to Venezuela during the Christmas break. He says his uncle and his uncle's family were found alive, buried in the floor of their house, but they had lost everything.

"It is the first time it happened this century. It is the most catastrophic flood," says Carolyn Mendez, 19, of Caracas.



Mendez, an ESL program student, was unable to return to Venezuela during the Christmas break.

"I was worried," says Tovar. "I was planning to go back and I didn't know if I could go."

Several airports, including the Caracas airport, were closed because they were being used as a place for the refugees to stay.

"After the floods I was in Maiquetia," says Faria. "I helped people onto a helicopter for one week." Faria says the government does not know how many are dead, but about 80,000 people are missing.

Tovar says he has friends who had families on the coast that died.

Venezuela, a South American country, has a rainy and a dry season. The coastal regions along the mountains were the most affected by the floods.

Tovar says he doesn't think the country will be different. "The people are working very hard, and there is help from other countries."

The United States, Spain, France, Italy, Brazil, Columbia and Cuba, among other countries, are helping Venezuela recover.

Faria says the government should build homes in new places and find jobs for the people who lost everything.

He says the people have gained solidarity through the mutual suffering because of the floods.

"It was a very sad Christmas," says Paez.

Send any money to the Consulado de Venezuela, 365 Bloor St. E., Suite 1904, Toronto, Ont. M4W 3L4.

WIN

Cheap Date ticket *giveaway!

Niagara News has **6 tickets** for the **Molson Cheap Date 2000** on **Tuesday, April 11,** at the Welland Campus gym.
It's easy! Answer the following: Name the college's male & female athletes of the year
e-mail your answer with phone number to **niagaranews@canada.com**

*(*Both answers must be correct. First six correct answers win. One per person. One per email address. Must be picked up from the Journalism-Print room S212 by Monday, April 10 at 2:00 p.m. with ID, or tickets will be awarded to next correct e-mail)*

WIN

PULSE
NIAGARA'S NEWS AND ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY

IN YOUR FACE... EVERY WEEK!

682-5999

BIG SCREEN

The Talented Mr. Ripley redefines acting, scriptwriting

By JASON BURROUGHS
Staff Writer

The Talented Mr. Ripley was just that — talented actors and nothing else.

I think Hollywood forgot a few points when they made this poor excuse for a movie. They forgot a smoothly moving plot, some action and a good script, three features that could only have aided this ailing tale.

You would think that with all the high-priced scriptwriters in Hollywood someone could have created a dialogue that would keep viewers interested.

This story has many aspects that look much like something Alfred Hitchcock would have created.

Even with a twist to the old-fashioned Hitchcock style, this story still doesn't quite have what it takes to make a good movie.

I will not fault the cast for this travesty. If it wasn't for the high calibre cast, I probably would have left the moment I realized the story was only going to get worse.

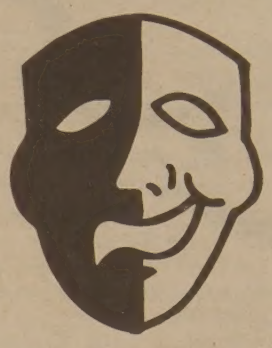
Tom Ripley, played by Matt Damon, is a man desperate to be someone else.

He wishes to live in everyone else's shoes except his own.

The movie started with Ripley playing the piano for a group of rich folks, using the identity of someone else.

After he is finished, one of the high-profile men at the gathering approaches Ripley and asks if he was in the same class as the man's son, Dickie Greenleaf, played by Jude Law.

When Ripley says yes, he is



asked to find Dickie by Dickie's father, Herbert Greenleaf, played by James Rebhorn.

Dickie has been living in Europe on his father's money.

Herbert would like Ripley to persuade Dickie to come home.

Ripley takes the offer. When Ripley finds Dickie he keeps playing the role of being one of Dickie's old classmates. Dickie believes Ripley and introduces him to his girlfriend Marge Sherwood, played by Gwyneth Paltrow. Ripley and Dickie become very close.

As Ripley learns more about his new friend, he tries to gain a stronger friendship by pretending to like all the things Dickie does, such as jazz.

Damon's character has two main talents; he can forge signatures and mimic people's voices.

It's too bad that this movie had such a horrible script, because maybe with a better dialogue this movie could have received a passing grade.

This story has many aspects that look much like something Alfred Hitchcock would have created.

I also must say that maybe I'm being a little too hard on this movie.

It is good for one thing.

This is the type of movie you can take your boyfriend/girlfriend to and be more than happy to miss.

I know I am glad I took my girlfriend. C+

Scream 3 explodes at box office but rounds off this 'killer' trilogy

Trilogies proving to be best venture in the film industry

By BROOKE DREDGE
Staff Writer

The hair on the back of your neck stands on end and you shiver all over in this two-and-a-half-hour movie.

Scream 3 is exploding at the box office. It is said to be the best in the Scream movie trilogy, but like most trilogies, the fire does have to die.

With the same stellar cast blowing you away, Scream 3 rounds out the trilogy with a bang. It's scary, but the demented twist to this movie makes you want one more movie beyond this.

I'm not going to give it away, but if you didn't already know through the series, one major aspect was left out. It is revealed now.

Sydney, played by Neve Campbell, has a step-brother, played by Scott Foley, whom she never knew she had. Foley's character is directing a movie based on the previous murders in Greensboro called Stab.

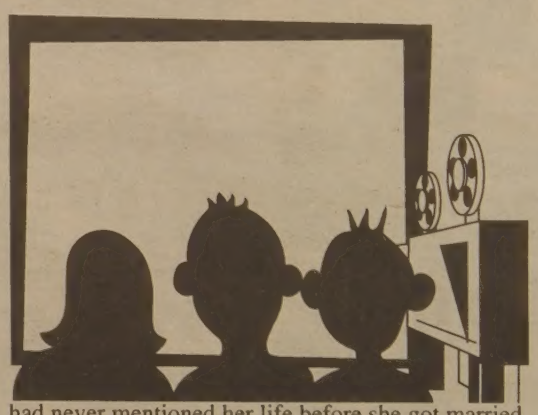
It's scary and keeps you on the edge of your seat.

Out of the blue, Sydney starts to have hallucinations of the killer still being alive and coming back to finish her off, so she goes to Hollywood where the fear grows when her nightmares come back to life.

She discovers people are dying, including the cast of the movie.

Famous actors for the movie within a movie are stars Parker Posey and Jenny McCarthy.

For Sydney, the scary part is discovering her mom



had never mentioned her life before she got married, or her secret life in Hollywood as an actress before she met Sydney's dad and had children.

The real plot twist is that Foley had been orchestrating the murders, using people Sydney knew, from the first movie through the third, in which he is unveiled as the real murderer.

His excuse is that he is angry at his mother for leaving him and angry at Sydney for having what he deserved: a family. Killing was a payback for his heartache.

When you discover who he is and what his motives are, it sickens you, but you feel sorry for him.

Regulars from the previous films are Courtney Cox and David Arquette.

The ending is a real thriller, just as the others were. The new twist leaves you wondering if Kevin Williamson will come up with Scream 4.

The third in a trilogy always seems to be the best. For me, this one is. It's scary and keeps you on the edge of your seat. Although I'm not one for scary films, I do hope a fourth will be done. I hope the anticipation won't kill us.

Oscars reward year of talent

By PATRICIA HUGHES
Staff Writer

And the Oscar goes to . . . American Beauty.

American Beauty is a movie based on a typical American family. It depicts a frightening reality, which people seem to accept more openly when it's shown in the form of a film.

American Beauty is intriguing and eccentric. It captures how the members of a family display themselves in public and shows what dark secrets can be found inside their home.

Kevin Spacey won an Academy Award for his portrayal of Lester, a middle-age man going through a mid-life crisis. Spacey is a wonderful actor, even though I didn't think he would win. It's not that I didn't think he deserved it, but because he never seems to exceed his best effort to date. Where was his nomination for L.A. Confidential?

Annette Bening's performance as Caroline, a woman who just wants to be loved, was exceptionally brilliant. Unfortunately she lost the golden statue to Hilary Swank.

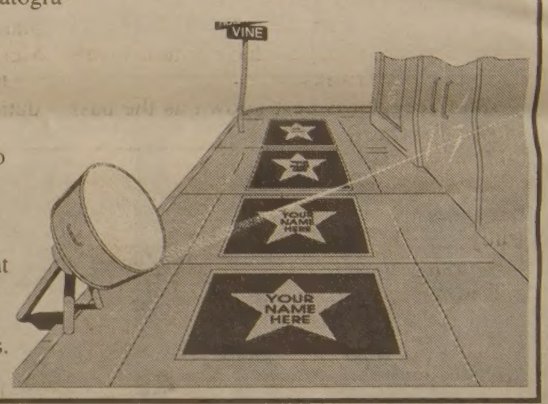
When Bening attended the Academy Awards on March 26 she was nine months pregnant, so winning was probably the last thing on her mind.

American Beauty isn't a movie for everyone, but if you're a fan of Spacey or Bening, then you're more likely to enjoy their on-screen chemistry.

I've come to learn that anything can happen at the Academy Awards.

American Beauty won Oscars for cinematography, original screenplay, best actor, best director and best picture.

My favourite to win best picture was The Sixth Sense, but I've come to learn that anything can happen at the Academy Awards.



Answer six questions, win $50

By DAN D'AMICO
Staff Writer

Who Wants To Be a Millionaire? is finally coming to Niagara College. The Canadian Information Processing Society (CIPS), along with the Communications and Information Technology (CIT) division, is sponsoring an event at the college in which any student in the college community can win $50.

The event is going to resemble the popular television series *Who Wants To Be A Millionaire?*, in which the participants, who are selected by random draw based on the number on their ticket, are asked a series of multiple-choice questions.

When a question is correctly answered, the participant is awarded more money and advances to a new question. The further a participant advances in the game, the harder the questions become.

Don't think the candidate is alone. Just as on the TV show, participants who need help are allowed a lifeline. Lifelines range from the audience's answer to a faculty member's guess.

All it takes is answering six questions right to get the $50 prize.

Students can pick up free tickets for the event in L-8 or S210A at the college's Welland campus. Only students with tickets can participate.

To become a contestant a raffle will take place before each round. If the number on the ticket matches the one the organizers shout out, that person will have a chance to win some cash.

The questions are general knowledge questions, and the harder ones will have to do with the history of the college.

Funding for the prizes will mostly come from CIPS, along with some aid from CIT. Peter Vanscoy, co-ordinator of the Computer Programming and Computer Programming/Analyst (Co-op) programs is co-ordinating the event. Leo Tiberi, director of the CIT division, will be the host. If the event is a success, it may run annually.

Vanscoy said CIPS came up with the idea for this event. "The goal is to have more social activities. The more, the better. It is all about having fun and it's good for the whole college," he said.

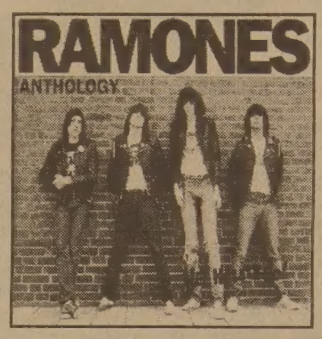
It all happens Thursday, April 12, in the Hamilton Room. Doors open at 4:30 p.m. and the game starts at 4:45 p.m.

Music Notes

Ramones Anthology worth asking price

By SCOTT THOMSON
Staff Writer

Just when you started believing music was safe again, those dirty little punks return with a vengeance.



A collection of the Ramones' greatest hits has been made available in a double compact disc form. The people at Warner Brothers have collected 58 of the Ramones' best songs, thrown in an 80-page booklet and charged a pretty good price for it. I paid about $45.

The collection is called the **Ramones Anthology** and is a must for any fan of the band.

The first disc chronicles the band's early material, ranging from songs like *Blitzkrieg Bop* to *I Wanna Be Sedated*. This disc moves at a rather fast pace and will get you up and dancing in no time.

The second disc contains their later material including *Pet Sematary* and the heavily 1980s-influenced *Howling at the Moon*.

I think this disc is more for die-hard fans. It contains 25 songs, some of which are difficult to sit through.

This collection is more than two hours in playing time and I consider it time very well spent.

One of the more attractive features of this collection is the 80-page book. It's loaded with photos and tells the story of the band's career. This book does take a while to read but it's very informative.

I realize that $45 is a lot for most college students, but if you are a fan of the Ramones, spend it.

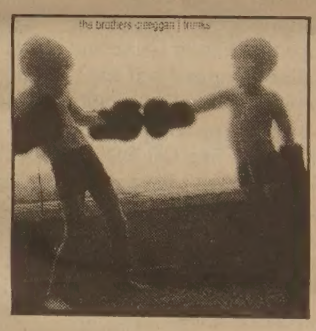
You will not regret it.

Creeggans' new project

By STEPHEN D'ORAZIO
Staff Writer

The Brothers Creeggan have returned with their new CD **Trunks**.

Jim Creeggan is best known as the bass player for the Barenaked Ladies. Andy Creeggan, once a member of the Barenaked Ladies, is studying music at McGill University in Montreal.



Trunks, released earlier this year, is an excellent mix of light funk and smooth jazz. The brothers' great musicianship is heard throughout the 11-song album.

Longtime fans of the Barenaked Ladies may be able to find small similarities in the music, but for the most part it is a totally different sound from Jim's other band.

The brothers mix funk bass lines with jazz piano, driven by the drumming of Ian McLauchlan.

On their new CD, the brothers share vocal duties. Their duelling harmonies are best heard on the last song, *Inchworm*, with Jim and Andy singing different lyrics in unison. The overlapping voices give the listener an idea of how well the brothers sing.

The Brothers Creeggan's brilliant melodies and well-written lyrics bring another aspect into their music.

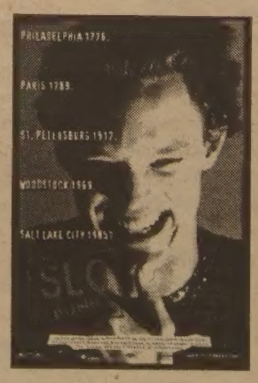
Their new release, however, is certainly not for everyone. It's safe to say there is no No. 1 hit on the album, yet I would recommend **Trunks** to anyone looking for something other than what is being played on the radio.

All should see SLC Punk

By KRISTIN COLLVER
Staff Writer

"We came from the east in search of the Messiah. We followed the big star in the sky."

This is a quote from, in my opinion, one of the best movies I have seen in a while.



SLC Punk (Salt Lake City Punk) takes place in 1985, during the Reagan era. The film stars Matthew Lillard as Steve-o, a recent college graduate out to cause mass destruction.

Filled with hatred for the world and anarchy always on his mind, Steve-o takes us through the life of a punk stuck in Salt Lake City, Utah.

The movie is a twisted tale. Although it is a fictional story, many of the film's elements were taken from the life of writer/director James Merendina.

In the movie, Steve-o tries to explain punk to the audience. The movie has the feel of a documentary with Steve-o as the narrator.

The characters in the story just add to the already amazing script.

There is Heroin Bob (Michael Goorjian), Steve-o's best friend and a guy who has never done drugs in his life; Mike (Jason Segel), who looks as if he belongs typing at a computer, not out brawling at a punk show; Trish, (Annabeth Gish) who runs the local head shop, is 30 and according to Steve-o is the "goddess of the scene"; and Sean (Devon Sawa), the kid who takes the most amusing acid trip I've seen depicted.

The musical score includes some of the best punk bands to hit the scene, including The Ramones and the Velvet Underground.

I would say that this movie is not just for punks. It tells an amazing story and was beautifully done.

SPECIAL NOTICE

Year End Bash

Thursday April 20

BIG BUCK'S MOUNTAIN LODGE ST. CATHARINES

featuring -
the Much Music Video Road Show
Strictly Hip
the Electric Circus Dancers

and Special Guest Host
Nadine Ramkisson
co-host and dance co-ordinator of MuchMusic's Electric Circus

TICKETS GO ON SALE IN ALL SAC OFFICES TUESDAY AT 9 AM

look for event poster starting Monday Morning on all three campuses

SPORTS

Sports banquet highlights football co-MVPs

Continued from Front Page

three-inch stature, Gaunt smashed his way to a league leading 214 kills and finished second in total offensive points with 250.

Patterson said the volleyball players deserved credit for their "tremendous ability to balance (sports) with academics."

The college's touch football team, which took home the OCAA bronze medal, was an exception among MVP distributions. Coach Randy Conlon chose to honour Andrew Rivers, 23, and Ryan Nava, 22, with the award. "It was an easy choice," said Conlon. "They both worked hard. They always came to practice."

After losing their quarterback from last season, Conlon said it was "hard" to have a good year. Conlon said the co-MVPs were valuable to the team's success, adding, "They were league all-stars."

"I'm more than glad to share it (the award) with Ryan," said Rivers about his coach's decision.

Once he received the award, Nava said he had no problem sharing it. He and Rivers are "classmates" and "good friends," said Nava.

Nava and Rivers said they expect to graduate from the Recreation and Leisure Services program this spring.

When Andrew Higgins was named the Male Freshman Athlete of the Year, a tremendous reaction from the men's basketball table was heard throughout the pub. Higgins' teammates celebrated the selection by banging on their table and by cheering enthusiastically.

"Feels good," said Higgins upon receiving the award.

Higgins, 19, is a first-year General Arts and Science program student who averaged nine points, 10 assists and six rebounds a game.

The Female Freshman Athlete of the Year award was given to Jennifer Doyle, 23, a first-year Human Relations program student. Doyle said this will be her final term at the college.

Sarkis said Doyle's consistent play, work ethic and positive attitude were the factors in her winning the award.

OCAA female volleyball all-star Diane VandenHoven was given the Female Athlete of the Year award. The sports banquet media release said her work ethic and upbeat personality made her a pleasure to coach.

VandenHoven, 20, is a third-year Social Service Worker program student and the volleyball team's power hitter. With the three-foot trophy in hand, VandenHoven said she "worked really hard" during the season and acknowledged the support she received from her teammates. "My team backed me all the way."

Aside from the players and their efforts, Patterson said the coaches played an important role in their team's achievements. "They're unbelievable."

The banquet was a "success," said Sarkis. For next year, Sarkis said the banquet would be held in a larger building.

Ryan Nava (left), 22, and Andrew Rivers, 23, proudly display the MVP award they share for touch football.

Photo by Dan D'Amico

New York Yankees the team to beat again in 2000

By SCOTT ROSTS
Staff Writer
Column

Spring is here. Sit back and enjoy the April showers and the May flowers. Most important, sit back and enjoy baseball's opening day.

Who will compete this year in the World Series? Only time will tell, but here's a quick look at a few teams that I think will be in the hunt at the end of the season. Let's start with the American League.

Winning three of the last four World Series, the New York Yankees will be in the race again. The team hasn't made any major changes and hopes that young starting pitcher Orlando Hernandez will better his strong performance of last year. Age will be a question though, with two of its top pitchers — Roger Clemens and David Cone — being 37 on opening day. The hitting production of Paul O'Neill and Tino Martinez is also going down as their age increases.

The Boston Red Sox will be able to produce well offensively as it did last year, but the pitching is in question. Cy Young Award winner Pedro Martinez will be the No. 1 man, but behind him the rotation is questionable. An attempt to boost the rotation was made by bringing in former Seattle star Jeff Fassero, but with a 7.20 Earned Run Average (ERA) last year, he will be having a make-or-break season.

The Toronto Blue Jays have made major team changes. With Shawn Green out, Raul Mondesi comes into town. The Jays hope he left all his troubles behind in Los Angeles and is bringing a hot bat to Toronto.

Pat Hentgen's departure leaves a hole in the team's pitching. Joey Hamilton makes his return this year after shoulder surgery, yet expectations are high. A question is in centre field, where Jose Cruz Jr. hopes to come back from a sophomore slump. If he doesn't perform well in camp, expect Vernon Wells to take over and start his first full major league season. Billy Koch may turn into an all-star closer.

The high-priced Baltimore Orioles hope that former Cleveland manager Mike Hargrove will finally get production from the club. The team isn't getting any younger, and major players like Cal Ripken Jr. and Will Clark can't have much left in them. A question remains at the team's closing pitcher position, with Mike Timlin being the main candidate for the job.

The Cleveland Indians open the season with new manager Charlie Manuel, after Hargrove left to manage the Orioles. They also brought in pitcher Chuck Finley and speedy outfielder Lance Johnson. The Indians hope Johnson will be a substitute in centre field for injured star Kenny Lofton. The Indians hope that with the right closing pitcher and a positive reaction with Manuel, they'll head to the top.

The Chicago White Sox hope to be a team on the rise. They're counting on a young pitching staff to carry them to the top. Chicago also hopes that star Frank Thomas can bounce back from a bad year, and that third baseman Mike Caruso can break out of the slump he faced in his sophomore season.

Continued on Page 27

Professional basketball rebounds from Jordan's retirement

By JOEL D. HERRINGTON
Staff Writer
Column

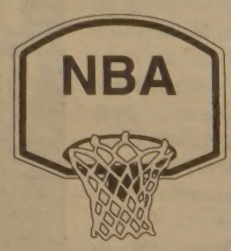
After a five-month strike and a disappointing 1998-99 half season, the National Basketball Association (NBA) has finally rebounded from the loss of Michael Jordan.

Statistically, last year's 40-game season was horrible. Points-per-game and field goal percentages were very low, while turnovers and defensive fouls went through the roof.

Strategically, last year's NBA season was pathetic. Sloppy and uncharacteristic performances were contagious throughout the league. The strike had significant consequences, but Jordan's retirement was at the root of all problems. The NBA went from one unmatchable superstar to a dozen of determined, athletic, but inexperienced all-stars.

The media, fans, coaches and players were looking for someone to carry Jordan's torch of eminence. Toronto's Vince Carter, Philadelphia's Allan Iverson, San Antonio's Tim Duncan and Kobe Bryant and Shaquille O'Neal, of Los Angeles, were the league's chosen ones. Everyone expected these guys to show signs of Jordan's talent. Unfortunately, nobody realized that "His Airness" and all of his achievements could never be duplicated. Tremendous pressure was put on franchise players like Reggie Miller (Indiana Pacers) and Karl Malone (Utah Jazz), players who have been so close to a championship, yet never come out on top. Jordan's Chicago Bulls regularly stood in the way of both teams.

In the end, Duncan's Spurs dominated the league from start to finish. They won the NBA Championship against the New York Knicks in a six-game series. Even though Duncan's maturity, talent and leadership resembled that of Jordan's, the Spurs' success was based on perseverance and team play. Duncan's consistency, David Robinson's defensive dominance and Sean Elliott's clutch shooting were the most important factors for the Spurs' growth and accomplishments. As for the other candidates, they relied too much



on individual play, so their teams failed miserably. Iverson hogged the ball, Carter was a rookie with no help and the Lakers were short on quality bench players. The basic reason for this fiasco is obvious. Once they were thrown into the spotlight, the chosen players were trying too hard to fill Jordan's shoes and to prove their identity.

I know I'm not the first person to say this, but Jordan's dominance and all-around talent will never be matched. Bryant and Carter are developing into basketball legends. When these two stars retire, they will be remembered as themselves and not as Michael "Air" Jordan.

This year, the NBA is back to its dynamic and exciting ways. Instead of having two or three legitimate contenders, the league is overflowing with well-coached and talented players. In fact, at least 10 teams have championship potential.

Almost every game I've seen this season has been entertaining and worthy of watching. The focus has shifted from one impeccable player to numerous multi-talented superstars. As a result, nothing is predictable in the NBA anymore. The Bulls won six championships during the 1990s. These days, they are the worst team in the league.

In turn, players like Kevin Garnett (Minnesota Timberwolves) and Grant Hill (Detroit Pistons) have pounced on the opportunity to show they are the league's best. It took one year for the NBA and its players to realize how great the league can be without Jordan.

I find myself incredibly drawn to professional basketball, especially since the Toronto Raptors have turned into a playoff contender.

Jordan's retirement was a healthy change for the NBA's integrity. The fans and media can focus their attention on several teams instead of one.

Nevertheless, the players and coaches went through an important learning experience last year. They learned how to absorb the loss of the world's most popular athletic figure. The quality of play during the current season is a perfect example of this achievement.

Undoubtedly, the league has flourished with an array of slam-dunking, rainmaking, shot-blocking and crowd-pleasing superstars.

EMPLOYMENT

Hiring? Call 735-2211 ext. 7748

The Niagara News does not attest to the claims of any employment opportunity and encourages all those interested in any position offered to fully research every opportunity.

THE Ontario Human Rights Code, *1981, prohibits discrimmination because of race, ancestry, place of origin, colour, ethnic origin, citizenship, creed, sex, sexual orientation, age, marital status, or handicap in "Accommodation" and "Employment" advertisements. The Niagara News reserves the right to make any necessary changes in advertising copy.*

"CONSIDER A CAREER IN HORTICULTURE"

NURSERY/GREENHOUSE: Wholesale nursery, growing ground covers, flowering shrubs, evergreens, flowering vines, dwarf trees and perennial flowers will be hiring additional staff for spring, both full time and seasonal. Employment is needed in potting, tagging and tying, shipping, growing, management and propagation. Work involves being both indoors and outside. Wages and positions commensurate with experience. Resumes may be dropped off to: Attention: Jane Broere (Monday to Friday - 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.)

Willowbrook Nurseries Inc., 1000 Balfour Street, Fenwick, Ont. L0S-1C0

No phone calls please. We thank all applicants, however only those considered will be notified.

GREATLY REDUCE YOUR DEBT

Large company expanding in area and seeking people-oriented and ambitious applicants.

YOU DECIDE HOURS
EARNINGS PAY QUICKLY
Call 1-800-678-1817 Ext 39
Leave name and info and phone number or try 329-9611 to speak to an associate

Hard Rock CAFE

NIAGARA FALLS

Join the Industry Leaders

Niagara's hottest spot is now hiring people with personality and attitude.

Supervisors, Servers, Cooks, Bartenders, Hosts, Retail sales associates, Bus persons.

Please send or fax your resume to:

Canadian Niagara Hotels Inc.
5685 Falls Avenue
Niagara Falls, Ontario
L2E 5W7

Fax: (905) 371-8346

$ NEED MORE MONEY? $

Don't have time for another job? Earn immediate cash income.
For details call now!(3 min. recorded message)
1-888-346-3570 code d-3

SUMMER JOBS
COLLEGE PRO PAINTERS

IS PRESENTLY LOOKING FOR RESPONSIBLE, HARDWORKING UNIVERSITY OR COLLEGE STUDENTS FOR:
**PART-TIME MARKETING POSITIONS IN MARCH AND APRIL*
**FULL-TIME PAINTING POSITIONS FROM MAY TO AUGUST*
POSITIONS AVAILABLE THROUGHOUT ONTARIO
IF INTERESTED, CALL 1-800-465-2839
OR APPLY ONLINE AT:
WWW.COLLEGEPRO.COM

FIND YOURSELF IN THE RESERVE

Here's an opportunity to meet someone with depth and knowledge you may not have had the privilege of knowing before. Yourself. In the Reserve, you discover more of what you're made of by mastering new challenges. You work selected evenings and weekends, meet people with similar interests, learn with hands-on experience, and earn part-time income. Find your true potential. Join in!

The Royal Hamilton Light Infantry Regiment
Now hiring for challenging summer employment.
200 James St. North, Hamilton, ON
(905) 972-4011 or 1-800-856-8488

www.dnd.ca

CANADIAN RESERVE
YOUR PRIDE. YOUR FUTURE. YOUR MOVE.

Attention Security Professionals
Start your career with us!

Intercon Security is searching for dedicated and proud security professionals who are interested in a career in the private security field.

Regular Full Time Security Officer
Temporary Summer Security Officers

— Why choose Intercon? —

- Placements in corporate, retail, or commercial sites
- Attractive full-time benefits and pay rates based on skills and performance
- Comprehensive in-house training such as First Aid/CPR and defensive tactics
- Career Pathing into Supervisory, Mobile, Locksmithing, and Dispatch available
- 28 years of sustained growth & success

— Requirements: —

- Minimum grade 12 diploma, LASA and PFP graduates encouraged to apply
- Able to work rotating shifts and weekends
- Excellent communication and service skills
- Experienced Officers welcomed

Intercon Security
40 Sheppard Ave West, Toronto, ON, M2N 6K9
Career Line: 416-229-6949 | Fax: 416-229-1207, Attention: Recruiting
email: recruiting@interconsecurity.com | www.interconsecurity.com

Fraternities • Sororities •Clubs •Student Groups

Earn $1,000-$1,500 this semester with the easy CIS three-hour fund-raising event. No sales required. Fund-raising dates are filling quickly, so call 1-888-923-3238 today or visit www.campusfundraiser.com!

"You're Hired!"

BEEN A WHILE SINCE YOU HEARD THAT?

THEN COME VISIT US!

hrcc.becon.org/hrcc

- RESUME WRITING
- COVER LETTERS
- GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS
- JOBS, JOBS, JOBS!!

JOB GYM

HUMAN RESOURCE CENTRE OF CANADA FOR STUDENTS

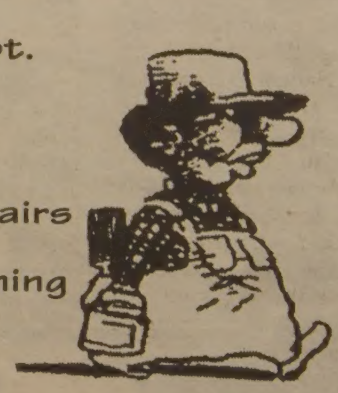
ST. CATHARINES	NIAGARA FALLS	WELLAND
43 CHURCH ST. #502	5853 PEER ST.	250 THOROLD RD
988-4154	354-2534	732-5025

Human Resources Development Canada | Développement des ressources humaines Canada | Youth Employment Strategy | Stratégie emploi jeunesse | Canada

FOR HIRE

WORK BY TIM

- ✔ House & Apt. Makeovers
- ✔ Painting
- ✔ General Repairs
- ✔ Carpet Cleaning



905-354-5476

Over 20 YRS. EXP.

CULINARY OSCARS

Good food, 'great hospitality' by college

Kyle Landry, of Hillebrand Estates, assistant to chef Tony Deluca, prepares the winning hors d'oeuvres for the Oscar dinner at the Maid of the Mist Centre in Niagara Falls.

Photo by Dan D'Amico

By DAN D'AMICO
Staff Writer

It was Oscar night and all the stars were out at Niagara College's Maid of the Mist Centre in Niagara Falls.

Among them were Dan Patterson, college president, Niagara Falls MPP Bart Maves and Cam Jackson, Ontario minister of tourism.

The night's intent was to celebrate the Oscars of cooking. Some of Niagara's top chefs were invited to the event to display their dishes. In order for the chefs to serve their dish, they had to win the nomination for the specific category. Categories ranged from hors d'oeuvres to the main platter and even the desserts.

The chefs invited to the night's event were Paul Mindra of the Old Stone Inn in Niagara Falls, Stephen Treadwell, of Queen's Landing, Antonio Deluca, of Hillebrand Estates and Lee Parsons, of Prince of Wales, both of Niagara-on-the-Lake. Niagara College also provided some of its own chefs; Mark Hand, Vincenza Smith and James McClean.

Deluca, who won multiple nominations, said he is impressed by the students from Niagara College. He said he has hired about 20 students from the Culinary Management program since his restaurant opened in 1996. "They are always good students. I enjoy putting on these events... makes you feel proud, like being chosen on an all-star team."

Shawn George, 21, of Niagara Falls, a student at the Maid of the Mist Centre in the Hotel and Restaurant Management (Co-op) program, said he "just signed up" for the night's event, adding it "helps me get to know the people in the industry." During dinner scenes, of food and cooking from all sorts of movies were shown to add to the Oscar atmosphere.

'I enjoy putting on these events . . . makes you feel proud, like being chosen on an all-star team.'
—Antonio Deluca

Maves said the night had "wonderful food, great hospitality and an impressive showing by the college."

Patterson said he likes these events because it "is an opportunity for Niagara College to celebrate the chefs, the food, the wine and the restaurants of Niagara.

"At the same time it is an opportunity for the students to gain experience by working along with the chefs in preparing tonight's dinner."

FRIENDS DON'T LET FRIENDS EAT ALONE!
Buy any size fries or meal, get a second for a friend
FREE!
2 FOR 1
HURRY, OFFER ENDS MAY 19, 2000
Please bring this coupon with you and your friend.
NEW YORK FRIES
Gateway Travel Centre, QEW & Glendale Road.
Not valid with any other offer.

Dan Patterson (left), president of Niagara College, chats with his wife Saundra Patterson, Jane Gauld, wife of Tom Gauld, chair of the college's Board of Governors and president of Canadian Tire Acceptance in Welland, and Cam Jackson, Ontario minister of tourism.

Photo by Dan D'Amico

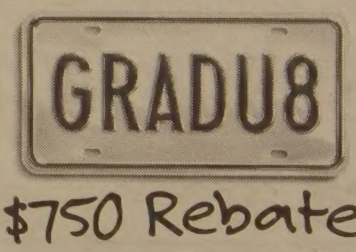
Stephen Treadwell (left) and Paul Mindra discuss their menus.

Photo by Dan D'Amico

If a $750 rebate
doesn't seem
like much now,
just wait
until you see
your first
paycheque.

2000 CHRYSLER NEON

THE $750 GRAD REBATE You'll need all the help you can get. That's why there's the $750 Grad Rebate. Use it in combination with any other offer to purchase any new Chrysler, Dodge or Jeep vehicle including the completely redesigned 2000 Chrysler Neon. Unfortunately you won't be able to afford to take it anywhere.



$750 Rebate

CHRYSLER
Dodge
Jeep

Only at your neighbourhood Chrysler, Dodge, Jeep® Retailer.

Offer applies to select models excluding Dodge Viper and Plymouth Prowler. Rebate includes GST. Limited time offer applies to university or college graduates between October 1, 1997 and September 30, 2000.

CAMPUS COVERAGE

Niagara volunteer sector under focus

By LAURA T. RICCIUTO
Staff Writer

Building the capacity of Niagara's voluntary sector will be the focus of a conference being organized by the Niagara Centre for Community Life and Leadership on May 9.

The centre is working with its sponsors to hold a conference that will target staff and board members working with the region's volunteer base.

"We are looking to become a one-stop resource centre, offering the knowledge, tools and experiences that will assist the voluntary sector in serving their stakeholders and community," states the centre, in its February newsletter.

Human Resources Development Canada (HRDC), the Trillium Foundation, the Ontario Healthy Communities Coalition, and the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, along with the Ontario Ministry of Citizenship, Culture and Recreation, will be teaming up to assist the centre in reaching its goal.

The Niagara Centre for Community Life and Leadership is a two-year-old organization established to meet the "needs expressed in the community," says Alison Burgoyne, marketing and public relations co-ordinator.

Niagara's volunteer sector includes organizations served by a board whose members are volunteers. Burgoyne is a graduate of the Public Relations (Post-graduate) program, class of 1996.

Burgoyne, of Thorold, says there are about 2,500 voluntary organizations in the Niagara region.

> ***'It's a huge gamut, but they are all assisting the community in different ways.'***

This includes groups like the United Way and the Salvation Army, as well as service and recreation clubs.

"It's a huge gamut, but they are all assisting the community in different ways.

"The voluntary sector provides services for all groups," says Burgoyne, adding, "These groups have affected us all."

Burgoyne has been employed with the centre for about one year. Her responsibilities include co-ordinating activities, creating and marketing all external communications, organizing media conferences and "generating as much publicity for the centre as possible."

The Niagara Centre for Community Life and Leadership appeared on Cogeco Cable 10's Daytime, a one-hour morning show, Feb. 18. This was a 12-minute segment that generated community support and follow-up calls for the centre.

The Niagara centre says the funding it receives from HRDC allows the centre to expand its role in the community.

The centre has established a Web site, and can be reached online at www.communitylife.net.

Information Niagara assists the centre in keeping the site up-to-date, and Bell Canada provides resources for marketing and training.

Burgoyne says designing and maintaining a Web site that is relevant and meaningful is a challenge, because of the technological limitations in the volunteer sector.

The Niagara Centre for Community Life and Leadership offers a variety of programs in assisting, educating and training the volunteer community.

The centre's learning and training activities are categorized into five areas: a Voluntary Sector Management Certificate program; workshops/seminars; customized training; facilitating/consulting and conference workshops.

The Voluntary Sector Management Certificate program is designed to develop the skills and knowledge necessary in leadership and management.

The certificate program is divided into eight courses. Each course is delivered in two six-hour sessions, as well as an independent-learning section.

It is not a requirement for participants to enrol in all eight courses, although students who successfully complete the eight courses will receive a certificate of achievement from Niagara College.

The centre is organizing about 50 workshops and seminars to be delivered from February to May.

For organizations requiring additional help, the centre offers customized training. These training sessions are designed specifically to assist in the areas of need.

Burgoyne says there is a growing interest in facilitating and consulting, so one-day sessions have been designed for this purpose. This training is dedicated to the development of mission and vision statements, as well as the goals and outcomes of an organization.

Times and dates of courses are available from the centre. There are no prerequisites to take part, but there is an average cost of $45 for each seminar.

Registrations are on a first-come, first-served basis, with applications being accepted until the start date of workshops.

For further information about the Niagara Centre for Community Life and Leadership, contact Burgoyne at 905-735-2211 Ext. 7603 or at Niagara College's Welland campus in Hennepin Hall H12C.

Federal government to control student loans

By RYAN McLAUGHLIN
Staff Writer

The federal government is again taking control of the Canada Student Loans Program (CSLP). For the last five years, the program has been administered by a group of nine financial institutions, including three of the country's largest banks.

The agreement set in July 1995, by Human Resources Development Canada (HRDC) and various financial institutions, had the federal government pay the banks a five per cent risk premium on the value of the loan consolidation in the given year. This amounted to about $50 million to $70 million a year. In turn, the lenders would assume all responsibility for managing the loans, including repayment.

On Jan. 5, the government invited interested financial institutions to enter into a new agreement concerning the administration of the CSLP. Even with an increase of 4.75 per cent to the risk premium, or about $100 million more a year, too few institutions expressed interest in the program. This lack of interest has caused the federal government to take control of the student loan program.

"Students applying for student loans for the next school year will not feel the effects of this development directly," said Jason Aebig, the national director of the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA), in a news release on March 9.

"The process for applying, qualifying and acquiring student financial assistance will remain unchanged," said Aebig, adding, "In fact, this situation presents an unprecedented opportunity for stakeholder input, for students to be involved in retooling their student loans program."

Aebig and CASA work at the federal level lobbying the government for various student-related issues. Recently their work, in partnership with the Millennium Scholarship Foundation, resulted in the increase of scholarship and bursary tax deduction limits from $500 to $3,000, the first change of its kind since 1971. This change was announced in Finance Minister Paul Martin's federal budget on Feb. 28.

In the past we've worked extensively with HRDC. They know us and respect us. They know we bring reasonable things to the table," said Kieran Green, communications co-ordinator for CASA.

Speaking about the restructuring of the CSLP, Green said, "We assume the HRDC will open up the process," adding, "We plan to be part of those consultations."

Green said some of the items CASA would like to see changed in the new CSLP are lower interest rates on the loans, government remittance of student loans after 10 years of repayment, and a combining of the various student loans into one student loan across the country.

"One student, one loan. It's time to harmonize all the student loans at all the levels," said Green.

In an agreement outlined last year by the Ontario and federal governments, harmonization of the two loans will begin by Aug. 1. The agreement will simplify the student loan process, cutting down on the number of forms a borrower will need to fill out and will allow portability across Canada.

Created in 1964, the CSLP has provided more than $15 billion in financial assistance to about 2.7 million students. More than 350,000 students a year use the CSLP to assist them with their post-secondary education.

Since 1992 default rates on student loans have continually increased, with a dramatic jump in 1996 to 30 per cent, up from 24 per cent the year before. With the CSLP changing hands to the government, sources said banks will continue to offer student loans to their customers but will have a more rigorous screening process usually resulting in the applicant needing a guarantor or co-signer for the loan.

HRDC said it plans to use "service bureaus" to establish and to administer the loans, as well as to maintain contact with the borrowers after they begin repayment. These "bureaus" would provide the same services to the federal government that they provide to banks and other financial institutions.

It has not been decided which companies this responsibility will fall upon, or even whether it will be a Canadian company. However, the HRDC officials confirm service for the CSLP will be uninterrupted when the current arrangement ends this July.

Anne's Hair Salon
For a quality Affordable Hair Cut Call
892-8144
To book an appointment today

STUDENTS CHECK IT
MINI SALVAGE
1874 #20 Hwy Fonthill
Salvage Dealer Liquidator
Unit #10
Great selection of carpet!
PRE-OWNED FURNITURE, APPLIANCES, ELECTRONICS
OPEN WEEKENDS ONLY
Sat. 9 - 4 Sun. 10 - 4

PREMIERE MODELS
School • Agency
Courses in:
• Self Improvement
• Professional Modelling
• Runway Modelling
• Dance
CALL FOR A FREE CONSULTATION
646-0166

THORNTON'S CYCLE & SPORTS CENTRE
Brand Name Bicycles by:
Norco, Rocky Mountain, Velo-Sport and Marin.
Haro, Norco Powerlite, Kuwahara, BMX
Sales and Service
Dart Supplies, Parts and Accessories
figure skates, roller blades
skate sharpening, skating fashions
For beginners and intermediate skaters
(905) 732-4770
300 Lincoln Street, Lincoln Centre, Welland, ON L3B 4N4

CAMPUS COVERAGE

Learning disability specialist speaks out

Niagara College disability specialist works with special needs students to meet education goals

By RACHEL MONTOUR
Staff Writer

A woman who works as a learning disability specialist at Niagara College's Welland campus says she is beating her disability.

Trina Washington, 40, of Niagara Falls, Ont., has been working at Niagara since August 1999.

"In the Centre for Students with Disabilities, my responsibilities include counselling, conducting assessments, and determining appropriate accommodation for students with disabilities."

She says she works with community agencies such as the Ontario March of Dimes to provide additional support and services for the students at the college.

She says she "loves" her job. "This is my first year at the college so it is fun to be doing something different and I enjoy working with this age range. The students are exciting and dynamic. They share a lot of their personal experiences with me. They have given me an opportunity to learn about the many programs offered at the college. They are generally optimistic and passionate about what they are doing."

Washington has been working in the mental health field for the past 19 years. She completed her undergraduate degree at the University of Western Ontario, in London, Ont., in four years and went on to get her master's degree on a part-time basis, at the State University of New York (SUNY) at Buffalo. She graduated in 1987.

"I feel that working at Niagara College is awesome. The atmosphere at the college is positive, energetic and inspired. "Anytime you are in a position to use your skills to help another individual it is worthwhile."

Washington and her husband, Dave, have been married for 16 and a half years. "My husband is loving, supportive and provides balance for my emotive personality. He can respond to my needs without me having to say what they are." Washington and her husband have an adopted son, David, who is eight. They raised him from the time he was a baby. "He is the sunshine of my life. My husband and I are having the time of our lives raising him."

Washington says David "loves" to read the *Niagara News* to find out what is going on at his mother's work. "David was especially impressed with cookie day at the college. He thought it was great that everyone got a treat.

TRINA WASHINGTON

'I feel that working at Niagara College is awesome. The atmosphere at the college is positive, energetic and inspired. Anytime you are in a position to use your skills to help another individual it is worthwhile.'

"The reason we chose to adopt was because of my disability. The type of muscular dystrophy that I have is genetic. The chances of having a healthy child were remote."

Washington was born with muscular dystrophy, a disease that attacks the muscles, causing them to deteriorate over a period of time and making mobility extremely difficult. The onset of this disease is at birth. The body does not absorb protein to build healthy muscle tissue. The result for an affected person is fatigue, or becoming tired easily.

"I would consider myself a clumsy child who walked awkwardly. I fell frequently and was tired easily by physical activity. Living with a disability requires you to be adaptive, flexible and to have a great sense of humour."

'In the nature of my career my personality is an asset. It inspires people to feel hopeful. It gives me the opportunity to take a sad or negative situation and find workable solutions.'

"I worry about accessibility of buildings. Will I be able to use the washrooms?" She says you learn how to adapt to your situation. "I use a scooter regularly and have adapted my home." Washington says there are ramps and an elevator in her home. Some other challenges she faces are "helping people to be more comfortable when dealing with people who have a disability."

"I personally like them to focus on my abilities. Sharing with people what style of assistance would be helpful and defining the terms of help I need make people feel at ease.

"I would encourage any person with a disability to focus on their abilities and to look for adequate accommodation to make life less stressful, to always have a sense of humour and to believe in themselves."

"Believing in good people makes me happy. I am generally optimistic and when I see people caring about one another it confirms my beliefs."

She says the growing incidence of violence, homelessness, poverty and abuse makes her sad and angry.

"I would like to think that people can take ownership and responsibility to solve these problems. I am touched to see the college community participating in projects like Many Hands and food drives to make everyone more aware.

"I think that my outgoing personality and kindness are my best qualities. They help me in my personal and professional life."

"My worst quality is my temper, which shows up on occasion when I am very disappointed, frustrated or angry.

"In the nature of my career my personality is an asset. It inspires people to feel hopeful. It gives me the opportunity to take a sad or negative situation and find workable solutions."

Washington says her hobbies are travelling cooking, reading, music and socializing.

She says she has travelled throughout Europe, Greece, the British Isles and the eastern coast of the United States.

"I love to experience other people's cultures, meeting people and it is very relaxing."

"I grew up with the privilege of the theatre production. I am able to feel the pulse of the story. Film does not capture it the same way. My music suits my mood of the day.

"I read all kinds of things. I don't have a specific preference."

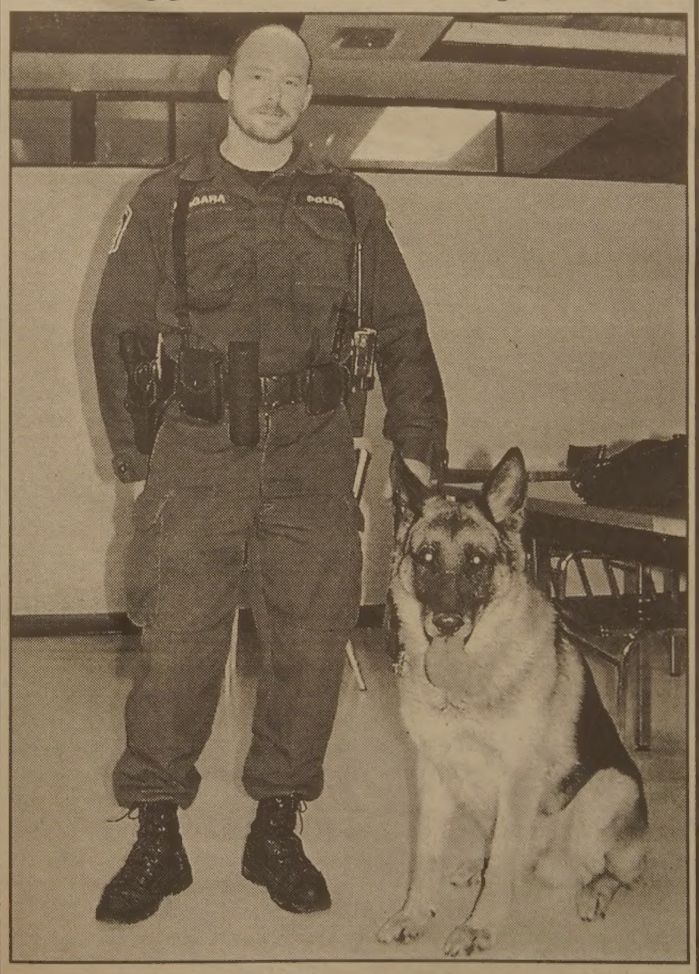
She says her favourite food is "pasta. It is the Italian in me. I eat it anytime, except for breakfast."

She says coral, a combination of pink and orange, is her favourite colour. "It is warm, inviting and embracing."

Washington is a Roman Catholic. She says "life" makes her want to get up in the morning. "I enjoy it. I have a healthy balance: great friends, a loving family and an outstanding job. My faith in God helps me through life."

Washington earns more than $40,000 a year. "It provides my family with a comfortable lifestyle."

An officer's best friend



Niagara Regional Police Constable Scott Johnstone, 34, of Niagara Falls, visited the college's Welland campus on March 30. He was speaking to the Law Clerk program students about the canine unit. He brought along his dog, Saint, 8 1/2 years old.

Photo by Tara Ford

Early prediction for World Series

Continued from Page 22

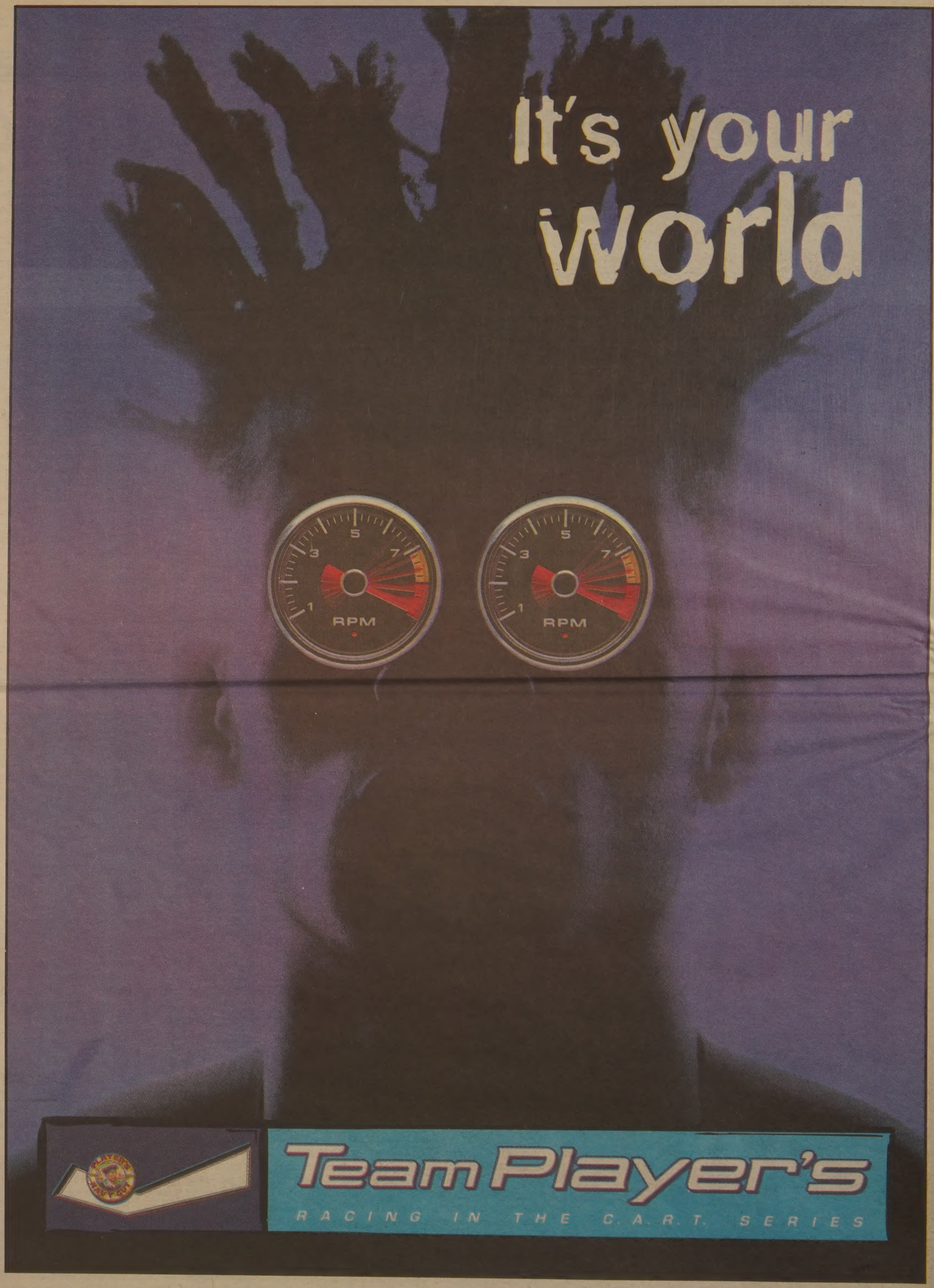
The Seattle Mariners made major changes in the off-season, but still have lots of power. Despite the trading of Ken Griffey Jr., the Mariners hold power in the newly acquired John Olerud and pitchers Brett Tomko and Aaron Sele. Seattle hopes Kazuhiro Sasaki will be a star closer. He comes from Japan and holds a record for most career saves. The Mariners hope he'll have the same effect in North America. The Mariners could make another major change some time in the season, with young superstar Alex Rodriguez becoming a free agent for next year. If they can't sign Rodriguez, look for a major trade.

During the 1990s, the Atlanta Braves have controlled the National League (NL), but a few factors could change this for the coming season. The team is getting older, most noticeably with star pitchers Tom Glavine, Greg Maddux and John Smoltz. Surgery will probably put Smoltz out all season. The controversial John Rocker, who hasn't been traded yet, may be a distraction to his team. The Braves hope to add some power with Andres Galarraga, who is recovering from a bout with cancer.

Watch out Atlanta, because the Cincinnati Reds are ready to make a run. The Reds welcome hitting power in Griffey Jr., Dante Bichette and Deion Sanders. They brought in pitcher Mark Portugal to fill a gap in their rotation. The production of this team will definitely rely on their new players.

The final team to consider in the NL is the Los Angeles Dodgers. This team has a large amount of money behind it, and used it by signing Shawn Green to a huge deal. The pitching on the team is pretty rough, but it still has all-star Kevin Brown.

There are many other teams out there, but look for these teams as the main contenders. As for the World Series, I suggest you look at the New York Yankees. My early prediction for the World Series is a Yankee victory over Cincinnati.


It's your world
RPM
RPM
Team Player's
RACING IN THE C.A.R.T. SERIES